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VOLUME LXXIII, NUMBER 19381 WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1996 • TISHREI 5, 5757 • 63 JAMAD 1917 NIS 3.50 (Eilat NIS 3.80)

In TODAY'S Business Supplement
★ Sharansky tackles the economy
★ "Garinim" company goes to Wall Street
★ Can Israel have municipal bonds?
Money

PM: We won't be pressured by Syria

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday accused Syria of trying to put psychological pressure on Israel by redeploying its troops in Lebanon. He said there are both open and covert contacts with Damascus aimed at calming the situation and resuming negotiations.

Discussing the troop movements in Lebanon, Netanyahu told reporters Israel is treating the subject seriously. "I'm convinced we are prepared with all necessary means to protect the state and its citizens," Netanyahu said. "What Syria is trying to do is evidently to put psychological pressure on Israel and its new government. It's not going to work; we're going to be careful and prudent. But we are not going to be pressured into making those unilateral concessions with Syria to which it has become habituated with the previous government. And we will not be cowed by these Syrian efforts."

LIAT COLLINS
The main thing is not to guess, but to decide. Without a decision, the guesses are not worth very much.

Labor MK Ehud Barak said he is concerned that Hizbullah will exploit the situation to try to pull Israel into a confrontation with the Syrian troops deployed in the Bekaa Valley.

committee that the US "understands" the need for changes in redeployment in Hebron, although it has not taken a stand. He said Israel has a proposal for the redeployment which will enable it to protect the Jewish community and development there. He did not elaborate.



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu chats with Maj.-Gen. Ze'ev Livne, his military aide, just prior to yesterday's meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. (Reuters)

One killed, two missing as navy helicopter crashes at sea

IDF searchers probed the 600 meter-deep waters off Nahariya for the bodies of Lt-Col Zion Bachar and Eran Gravia, the pilot and communications officer of the navy Dolphin helicopter which crashed into the Mediterranean during a routine exercise on Monday night.



Shahak Sela



Eran Gravia

Ben-Eliahu said the Dolphin was well-maintained and that weather conditions were favorable during the exercise. Wind velocity was low and the seas were calm. The Dolphin had taken off and landed twice, before embarking on its last flight at 7:25 p.m. It had been training with two ships at an altitude of about 450 feet and had been in radio contact during the exercise. Suddenly, at 8:07, it disappeared from radar screens and all contact was lost. It was about 12 nautical miles west of Nahariya when the crash occurred.

Brodet Committee proposes taxing short-term savings

THE Brodet Committee on structural changes in the capital markets publicized its proposals yesterday, including taxing short- and mid-term savings accounts by 5 percent-10%, offering tax breaks for savings plans of 10 years or longer, and instituting a series of reforms in Tel Aviv's debt and stock markets.



David Brodet (Isaac Harris)

any alleged wrongdoing in the markets. Many of the proposals will require legislation, which Brodet said would be enacted in October and November, allowing for the introduction of the package of corrective measures from January 1.

US sending more troops to Kuwait

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Bill Clinton is sending 3,500 US troops to Kuwait to "keep Saddam Hussein in a box," and to warn the Iraqi leader he risks further attacks if he threatens American forces or neighboring countries.

Right drug, mild dose

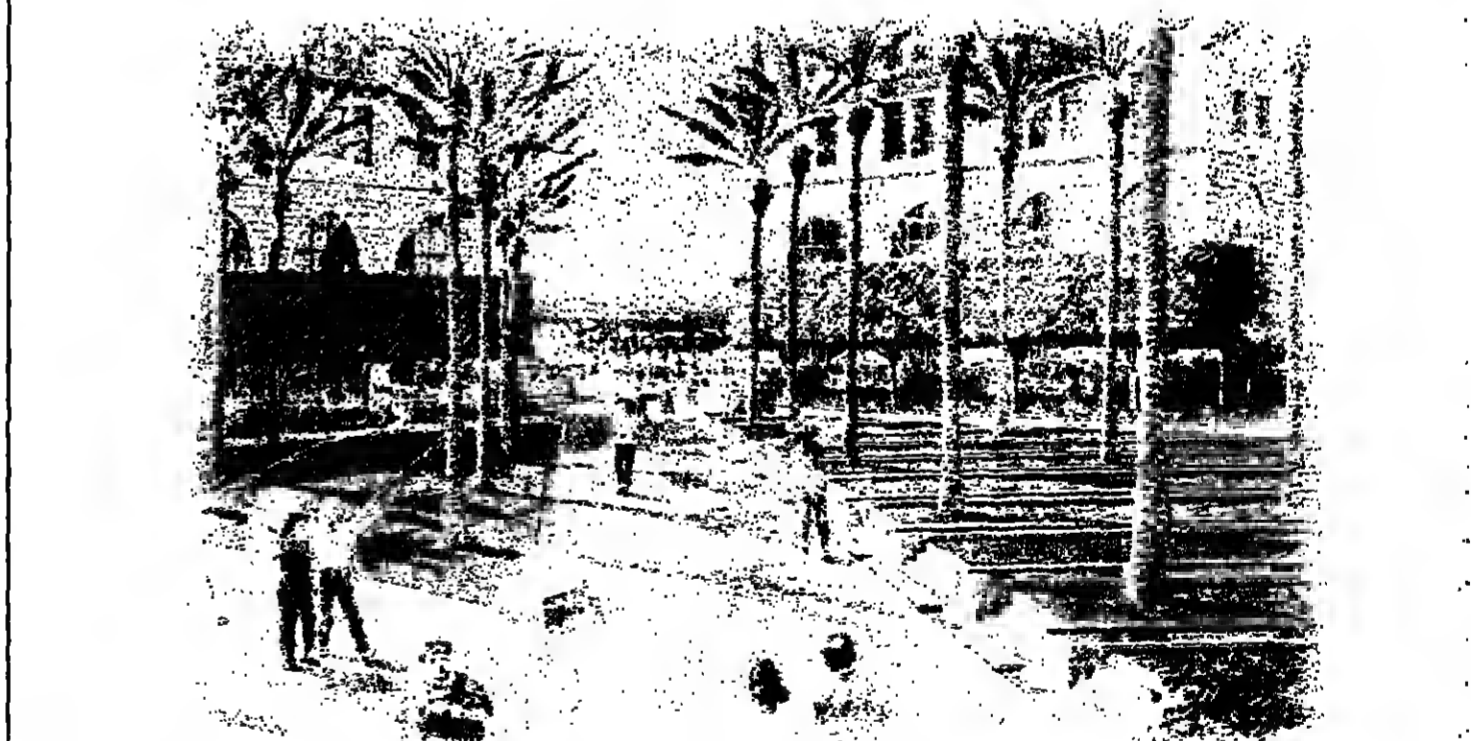
THREE key questions arise from the Brodet Committee's report: did it fulfill its mandate, did it address the real needs of the battered capital markets, and will it be implemented.



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Mordechai to meet with Arafat tonight

Gov't, opposition spar at special Knesset session

THE much delayed meeting between Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat is to be held tonight at the Erez checkpoint.

Mordechai's office said the working meeting will take place on the Palestinian side of the border at 8 p.m. On the agenda will be the redeployment in Hebron, the closure, the fight against terrorism, prisoner releases, and security arrangements at the airport in Gaza.

There has been speculation for months that Mordechai and Arafat were to meet, but it was only after the summit between Arafat and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that the ground was set for the meeting. Last week, Mordechai spoke to Arafat for the first time in the telephone to arrange a date for the meeting.

Western diplomats last night indicated that there is high anticipation about the meeting and the hopes that Mordechai will present Arafat with Israel's plans for redeployment in Hebron.

At yesterday's special Knesset session, initiated by the Labor faction to discuss the Netanyahu-Arafat meeting earlier this month, Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, answering on behalf of the government,

LIAT COLLINS and ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

repeated Israel's intention to abide by commitments signed by the previous government with the Palestinians, but stressed it is determined to stand firm on the idea of reciprocity.

He said Israel is not prepared to ignore violations, and no progress could be made unless it is clear that the PA is doing everything to curb terror organizations and stops trying to undermine the status of Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

In a marked barb, Hanegbi referred to Labor leader Shimon Peres, who spoke first, as "one of the opposition leaders." He said Peres was right in saying there is "no peace without a price," but offered a few more slogans of his own: "No peace at just any price"; "no peace from panic"; and "no one-sided peace."

He rejected opposition charges that the government had caused a stalemate in the peace process. He said the government is strengthening ties with the US, Egypt, and Jordan and offering a chance to improve the relationship with the Palestinians through dialogue.

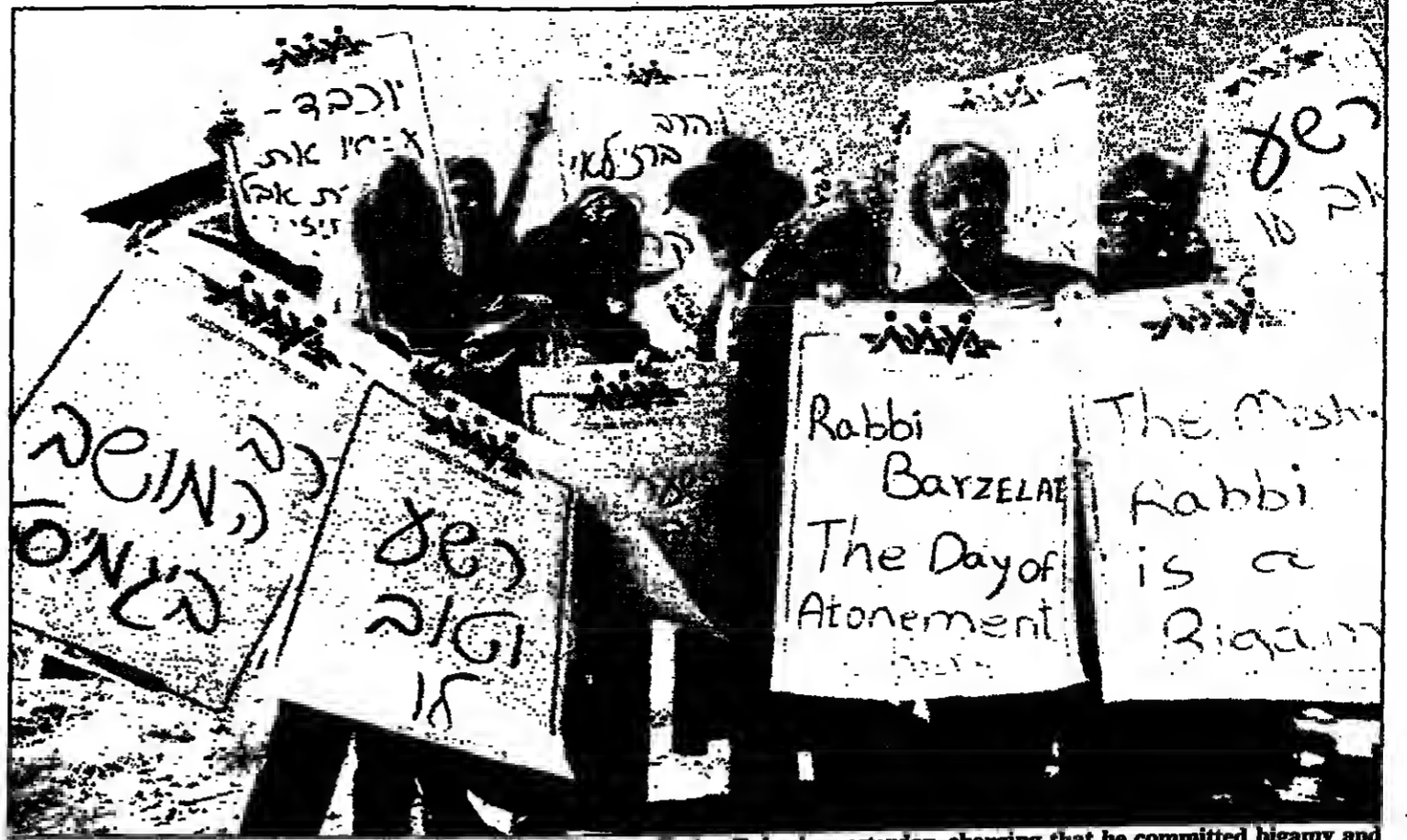
Peres said the government must

understand that without an arrangement with the Palestinians, there will be no peace in the Middle East.

On Syria, Peres said Netanyahu "can't be the champion of the lowest probability. He doesn't know. Nobody knows. Before [the] Yom Kippur [War], we didn't know either. I'm not saying we need to panic. I'm not trying to frighten people, but neither am I saying anything to the contrary. We know what we know and we don't know what we don't know. We must take that into account."

Peres also attacked Netanyahu over his Lebanon First idea. "I ask you, peace in the Middle East without Syria? Why should there be just a partial peace? Netanyahu came up with the brilliant idea of Lebanon First, which immediately dissolved. It says to [Syrian President Hafez Assad]: 'We have a headache in Lebanon, help us; you have a headache in the Golan Heights, stick with it.' [Assad] is not stupid. Anyone who thinks that Syria will give up on the entire Golan Heights and will leave Lebanon because it's heard there is a new government in Israel is propagating baseless illusions."

Peres said Yitzhak Rabin had "understood there's no free peace; there's peace for territory."



Na'amat members demonstrate against the rabbi of Moshav Sha'ar Ephraim yesterday, charging that he committed bigamy and abandoned his wife of 40 years. (Dina Oren/Drive/Israel Sun)

US Ambassador in Beirut: Syrian troop redeployment not worrying

BEIRUT (Renter) — A US envoy to Beirut yesterday described the Syrian redeployment in Lebanon as "not alarming," saying fears of a Syrian-Israeli military confrontation were "far-fetched."

Asked if he expects a war in the region, Jones said: "I certainly don't see anything like that happening... [A military confrontation between Syria and Israel] seems pretty far-fetched."

"I think a lot of people in the region are watching closely the redeployment and trying to understand what the significance is, and we are among those. I don't see anything particularly alarming in the redeployment," US ambassador in Beirut Richard Jones said.

"I think it is clear that you [Lebanon] are in a tense situation, but parties on both sides should assess the situation very carefully and should not rush to conclusions on what those on the other side may be planning to do," Jones added.

IDF on alert along Golan Heights, report local residents

THE IDF has gone on alert on the Golan Heights and especially Mt. Hermon in the past few days, according to local residents.

They stressed, however, that despite the increased alertness and some additional training exercises, the atmosphere in the region was calm and people were going about their lives as normal.

A divisional exercise was carried out in the past few days in the Golan Heights region to examine the level of readiness

and capabilities of the forces in various defensive scenarios.

The exercise was concluded yesterday afternoon and all the troops and units involved returned to their regular activities.

The measures, although officially classed as routine, could nevertheless be seen as cautious counter moves to the Syrian army redeployments that have been taking place in Lebanon and Syria itself since the end of last month.

Some of the redeployments have

placed Syrian commandos in positions in the southern reaches of Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, close to the foothills of the Hermon mountain range.

Other units have deployed from positions in Beirut and strategic hills overlooking the Lebanese capital to the northern parts of the Bekaa Valley and south of the Beirut-Damascus highway.

The Bekaa region is where the bulk of

DAVID RUDGE

Syria's estimated 35,000 to 40,000 troops are stationed in Lebanon. The area is protected by batteries of ground-to-air missiles stationed on the Syrian side of the border.

Despite these moves, however, Eli Sagron, manager of the Hermon ski site, said there were no signs of any extraordinary measures being taken by the IDF in the region, or for that matter on the

Syrian side.

"There has been an increase in the level of alertness, as well as in the presence of the IDF in the area," said Sagron.

"There have also been a few more training exercises but nothing really big. The IDF is obviously taking the present situation seriously, but I certainly don't see anything that would indicate we are heading for a war or something like that," said Sagron.

"It looks more to me like a show of force on the Syrian side and some counter moves on our side, but I don't think there's anything to really worry about."

"We are all carrying on as normal, especially with the developments and improvements we are carrying out at the ski site in preparation for the winter season," added Sagron, a resident of Neveh Aviv on the slopes of Mt. Hermon.

Deployment of Syrian commandos on Hermon foundation for military option

THE gradual, quiet redeployment of Syrian special forces near Mt. Hermon, as well as the positioning of the 51st armored division along the Damascus-Beirut highway, is not just defensive posturing, but the laying of the foundations for a limited Syrian military option on the Golan Heights.

Still, the IDF has not ordered any significant changes in its deployment in the North. The main reason is that any rash moves may send the wrong signal to the Syrians and could lead to a deterioration of the situation with disastrous results. Another is that the Syrians have the patience to keep their forces there for an extended period and maintaining bolstered forces, which involves altering training schedules, is too costly for a questionable threat. So Israel watches, repairs positions, and keeps its troops on alert.

ANALYSIS ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

In a calculated way, Syrian President Hafez Assad has moved his best forces out of western Lebanon and closer to home. The main Syrian change is the deployment of the 51st armored division from north Beirut to the Bekaa Valley.

But the more curious move was the withdrawal of the 14th division from Beirut, where it was operating in a police role, to the Mt. Hermon foothills, where it is based out of Kafir Kuk.

The regiments of special forces are offensive forces trained in airborne assault. This is threatening to Israel because they are now dangerously close to Mt. Hermon.

There is apparently no urgency in the deployment, and Assad appears

to want Israel to get used to the commandos presence in proximity to the summit, in the same way Israel is used to the three divisions facing the Golan Heights.

The deployment is extremely confusing and dangerous because it is simultaneously defensive and offensive. Syria is openly saying the redeployment is to defend against an Israeli attack, but a situation now exists in which Syria could snatch a hilltop, like the Hermon, if Assad feels conditions are ripe and believes it could help him achieve his ultimate goal of regaining the Golan.

For now, the belief is that Syria will sit tight, knowing it now has a military option. However, the IDF's large armored exercise on the Golan Heights this week certainly is a signal to Damascus that Israel knows how to flex its muscles as well.

Damascus steps up rhetoric against Netanyahu Syrian minister plays down troop moves

SYRIA yesterday stepped up its rhetoric against the government.

A broadcast on Radio Damascus said the gap between the Arabs and the "extreme stance" of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is still very big, and no one would be able to bridge it unless Netanyahu changes his position.

The analysis piece said that instead of accepting international decisions of "territories for peace," Netanyahu is insisting on "peace for peace with security."

The broadcast made it clear that, from Syria's point of view, this position is totally unacceptable and denounced Netanyahu and the government as "those who oppose peace, and prepare for war."

But Information Minister

DAVID RUDGE

Mohammed Salman apparently tried to play down the significance of the recent troop movements in Lebanon to the Bekaa Valley.

Salman, one of the few Syrian officials to comment on the moves, maintained in an interview with the London-based *Al-Hayat* that they are directly connected to the situation in Lebanon and not regional concerns. He noted that Syrian troops had entered Lebanon at the request of the Lebanese government to help put an end to 15 years of civil war.

The deployment of Syrian forces, he was quoted as saying, was initially intended to stop the killing and went through several stages.

In the second phase, after the first aim had been achieved, the Syrian troops were concentrated at strategic positions and checkpoints.

Salman said the movement of the troops from these positions in the past few weeks was "part of a continuous process which reflects confidence in the increased ability of Lebanese forces to control the security situation."

In another article, however, *Al-Hayat* quoted anonymous sources as saying that the troop movements are the result of "Syrian expectation that the hard-line Likud government will implement its election pledge to strengthen its forces in the south Lebanon occupation zone and hit Lebanese guerrillas there."

HELICOPTER

(Continued from Page 1)

traces of the Dolphin and its three-man crew. By midnight, the tail of the helicopter was located. Ninety minutes later, working under the light of flares, searchers recovered Sela's body.

Yesterday morning, two pilot helmets also were recovered from the sea. Bachar, the pilot, was the commander of the Dolphin squadron; Ben-Eliahu said the searches would continue until the bodies were recovered.

Brig-Gen. Yoel Fleisho, a former head of IAF intelligence, said flying the Dolphin is "pushing the limits of ability." He noted that flying at sea and in darkness eliminates the horizon, and landing on a small bouncing platform behind a ship is extremely difficult.

Brig-Gen. (res.) Ron Huldai also said flying helicopters over water is tricky.

"In night training flights at sea, even if the weather is fine, there can be instances of vertigo, and a pilot can lose his senses during turns," he told Army Radio. Related stories, Page 12

Ross criticizes Egypt over economic conference

US Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross implicitly criticized Egypt yesterday for its view that holding November's economic

conference depends on progress towards peace.

"There is no fixed timetable for making progress, so there is no linkage between making progress and holding the conference," Ross said after talks with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa.

Moussa and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak have made the link in repeated statements this month and Moussa said again yesterday that the new Israeli government had not yet done enough to advance talks with Syria and the Palestinians.

"We believe that recent statements from Israel indicate a lack of interest in the peace process and help to poison the atmosphere more and more at a time when we are trying to put blood back into the veins of the process," he told reporters.

Moussa described Israeli criticism of Egypt's Middle East policy as unfortunate, and advised Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to watch out for his own nose, rather than making remarks about Egypt's.

He was responding to Netanyahu, who said on Sunday that in threatening to postpone the economic conference, Egypt was acting "like a man who cuts off his nose to spite his face."

"It was unfortunate talk," Moussa told reporters. "He'd do best to keep off Egypt's nose, so that Egypt keeps off his nose."

Ross' visit comes just days after a meeting of Arab foreign ministers again warned Israel that its nascent ties with Arab states are at risk without progress in the negotiations.

News agencies

terday that the new Israeli government had not yet done enough to advance talks with Syria and the Palestinians.

"We believe that recent statements from Israel indicate a lack of interest in the peace process and help to poison the atmosphere more and more at a time when we are trying to put blood back into the veins

Sharansky promises to help settlers

INDUSTRY and Trade Minister Nathan Sharansky pledged yesterday to work to reinstate preferential grants and tax breaks for industries setting up shop in the settlements.

The previous government rescinded many of these financial incentives. "I will recommend that the status of Development Region A be returned to the settlements," Sharansky told settlement leaders while on a tour of Hebron. "There is no reason why an industrial area in Kiryat Arba does not enjoy the same benefits of an industrial area in Beersheba."

Under the Sheves Plan, named for former director-general of the Prime Minister's Office Shimon Sheves, these preferential terms were taken away from most of the settlements soon after the Rabin government came to power. As a result, settlement leaders claim, investment in the territories has plummeted over the last four years.

Reinstating this status will "strengthen the settlements," said Ma'aleh Adumim Mayor Benny Kashriel, deputy head of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza. "It will bring us more residents, and will

HERB KEINON

also lead to better relations with our neighbors.

"One of the reasons Ma'aleh Adumim has had good relations with [nearby] Jericho, is because 1,000 of that city's bread-winners work in Ma'aleh Adumim," Kashriel said.

The issue of reinstating the preferential status to the settlements is currently being studied by an inter-ministerial committee, which will make its recommendations to the government.

Hebron settlement leaders had hoped to use Sharansky's visit to the city to impress upon him the security dangers they feel are imminent if the IDF redeploys from Hebron. What they did not plan on was a burst of gunfire from one of the city's hills that rang out as the minister was in the Beit Hadassah compound.

Sharansky was inside Beit Hadassah when the shots were heard, but a large contingent of his aides and journalists were on the roof. Soldiers on the roof raced down the steps and sped in the direction from which the shots came.

"This is nothing new," one Hebron settler said. "We hear gunshots here every night."

After the incident, Sharansky said: "I didn't see this as serious. I heard the shots, and it reminded us that we are on a confrontation line, and we have a special responsibility for security here."

Sharansky told reporters that the government should renegotiate the Hebron pull-out with the Palestinians, if that is what is needed to ensure security in the Jewish settlement.

In a closed meeting with heads of the Council, Sharansky reportedly said he feels the Hebron settlement should be considered a civilian settlement like all others. Council officials interpreted this to mean that he was opposed to the current agreement regarding Hebron, because it conditions any building in the Jewish enclave in the city on Palestinian approval.

The meeting was very friendly. Sharansky frequently alluded to his past as a Prisoner of Zion, and was told more than once by his hosts that they are fighting for what they believe in, just as he fought for what he believed in.

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today at 1:00 p.m. at the YMCA, King David Street. Rotarian Malcolm France will speak on computers.

A memorial service and unveiling of the tombstone for

SALI BERKOVITS ז"ל

(widow of Rabbi Eliezer Berkovits ז"ל)

will take place at the Eretz Hachaim Cemetery, near Beit Shemesh, on Thursday, September 19, 1996, at 3 p.m.

Minha and *siyum mishnayot* at 4 Rehov Shimon, Apt. 8, Jerusalem at 5 p.m.

The Family

In sorrow, we announce the passing in old age our sister, aunt

REGINA BORITZER

The funeral will take place today, Wednesday, September 18, 1996, leaving at 11 a.m. from the Sanhedria Funeral Parlor, Jerusalem, for Har Hamenuhot.

The Boritzer, Mayer, Botzer, Lavi, Yoeli, Oshry, and Oz Families, in Israel and the USA

THE MARTHIE LAUB PRIZE
FOR TOLERANCE AND DEMOCRATIC VALUES

Through the Jerusalem Foundation, Mrs. Marthe Laub will grant a prize totaling \$20,000 for the advancement of tolerance and democratic values in Jerusalem. \$8,000 will be granted to an Israeli who has made a significant contribution to the advancement of these values. \$12,000 will be granted for the development of a project in this field, based on the recommendation of the winner of the prize.

The Prize will be awarded at a ceremony on Monday, 18 November 1996 - 7 Kislev 5757.

Nominations for the Prize will be accepted from the following people:

The President of the State of Israel; The Prime Minister; government ministers; the Speaker of the Knesset; the President of the Supreme Court; the Chief Rabbis; the heads of the Sharia Courts; the heads of the Christian Churches; the head of the Druze Community; the Mayor of Jerusalem; the President of the Israel Academy of Sciences; University Presidents; the Chair of the Union of Local Authorities in Israel; the Chair of the Association of Community Centers; and the Chair of the Jerusalem Foundation.

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هَذَا مِنَ الْأَصْلِ

Weizman wants new residence on Mt. Scopus

BILL HUTMAN

PRESIDENT Ezer Weizman wants a new president's residence built, with a better view than the present Rehavia neighborhood location, and is looking to the Mount Scopus area as a possible site.

Jerusalem Municipality sources said Weizman, in his annual RoSh Hashana gathering with city leaders at the President's Residence yesterday, asked Mayor Ehud Olmert to look into the possibility.

Weizman told Olmert that his uncle, the late president Chaim Weizmann, considered building the president's residence on Mount Scopus. The sources said Weizman had previously expressed interest in building a

new president's residence at the UN compound in Armon Hanatziv, but that this idea was quickly scrapped because the UN appears to have no intention of giving up the property.

City Hall looks favorably on the idea of moving the president's residence, because the present location is on a large tract in one of the city's most expensive neighborhoods, and could provide a prime area for additional residential development.

Olmert told Weizman city officials would look into the possibility of building a president's residence in the Mount Scopus area, and report back to him on its feasibility.

Illegal J'lem Old City dwelling demolished

Municipality: Arab public figures are inciting people to build illegally

BILL HUTMAN

YESTERDAY'S demolition of a home in the Old City by the Jerusalem Municipality was meant to serve as a warning to Arab residents who are considering trying to build without the proper permits, municipal officials said.

The officials charged that Palestinian leaders are encouraging Palestinian residents to ignore Israeli building codes and construct new homes in Jerusalem, and said the city would not tolerate the illegal construction.

"We hope the demolition will serve to deter continued illegal construction in east Jerusalem," said David Biton, the city's chief building inspector, who personally oversaw the demolition of the home - a floor added to a building in the Armenian Quarter. "We are doing our job, and will continue to do our job. The Arab residents must start to understand this."

Dozens of policemen provided security for the demolition crew,

and kept away a small crowd of Palestinian residents. Palestinian leaders in the city declared a short commercial strike in eastern Jerusalem to protest the demolition, Israel Radio reported.

Biton said the home's owner, Ra'ani Yajmour, Monday evening handed him a key to the flat, after the family had taken out its belongings.

Yajmour had petitioned the High Court to prevent the demolition, but his petition was denied, according to city officials.

Municipality spokesman Hagai Elias said that "the Jerusalem Municipality expresses wonder and sorrow that public figures in the Arab sector are trying to incite the population in east Jerusalem, and encourage them to build without permits."

Elias said that during Friday prayers at Al-Aksa Mosque, Moslem clergymen have been

encouraging illegal construction.

City crews also tore down several metal posts and blocks that represented the beginnings of illegal construction on a nearby roof, according to Biton.

He said Yajmour's home was a severe violation of the building code because the building he added a floor onto was historic, and the extra floor adversely affected the skyline of the Old City.

Meanwhile, municipal sources said the city's legal adviser is reviewing an updated report on allegedly illegal construction next to Al-Aksa, which may have been halted in accordance with a court order. Some work continues next to Al-Aksa, but it may not be in violation of the building code, according to the sources.

The government is pressing Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert to act with restraint when dealing with illegal construction, particularly on the Temple Mount.



Policeman stand by yesterday, as machinery is brought in to demolish an illegal building in Jerusalem's Old City. (Chabad Zelig)

Nimrodi asks High Court to delay his hearing

Ma'ariv publisher and former editor-in-chief Ofer Nimrodi and the daily's security officer David Ronen yesterday petitioned the High Court of Justice to postpone hearings for their wire-tapping trial until they are given all of the information relevant to their case and have analyzed it.

They say that the information contains details which will prove them innocent.

The petition, filed against Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court Judge George Kara and the Tel Aviv District Attorney's Office, calls for the cancellation of the first three of their 50 hearings, which are scheduled to begin September 25. Nimrodi and Ronen appealed to the High Court after Kara rejected their petition.

According to their petition, they have only received a fraction of the information which the court had ordered the police to release to them. (Itim)

Mandelbaum Square dedicated in Jerusalem

BILL HUTMAN

SEVENTY years ago, the late Simcha Mandelbaum bought a piece of property in an "out of the way" spot in Jerusalem, banking on the area eventually becoming the heart of Jerusalem. He discovered how right he was in a much quicker and tragic fashion than he expected.

Yesterday, national and local leaders took part in a ceremony marking the naming of Mandelbaum Square, not far from the spot where Simcha Mandelbaum built his family's home and the Mandelbaum Gate, dividing east and west Jerusalem, once stood.

"Mandelbaum" long ago took on far greater meaning than just a family's name, said Simcha Mandelbaum, whose grandfather of the same name built the home. Today, the name conjures up memories for many of divided Jerusalem.

"My grandfather chose the location because it was along the route to the Hebrew University," said the 66-year-old Mandelbaum. "He believed many Jewish families would come live in the area."

But history would have it otherwise.

In 1929, the year the Mandelbaum home was completed in the Sheikh Jarrah neighbor-

hood, Arab riots against Jews in Jerusalem also broke out. The family was forced to turn the majestic, two-story home into an armed garrison. Nearly 20 years later, in the War of Independence, the home, subject to numerous attacks in the interim, was blown up, apparently by Jordanian soldiers. Thirty-six Hagana fighters were killed in the blast. The family had been evacuated from the home beforehand.

From 1948 until 1967, the checkpoint between east and west Jerusalem, or Mandelbaum Gate, was located on the ruins of the Mandelbaum home. The few people with special permits to cross between the two halves of Jerusalem used the checkpoint.

"The original plan was to build some sort of memorial mentioning Mandelbaum Gate, but politically, many people were against this idea," because for them the gate symbolized the divided Jerusalem, according to Mandelbaum. Mandelbaum said his family, which has lived in Jerusalem for over 200 years, agreed that a square is more appropriate.

"We wanted to something that represents the united Jerusalem," he explained.

Protesters close Ramat Hovav for several hours

DOZENS of Negev residents, led by Greenpeace activists from around the country, closed the entrance to the Ramat Hovav toxic waste disposal site, near Beersheba, for several hours yesterday.

They claim that the site should use more modern methods to dispose of the waste.

In response, the directors of the site said they do everything possible to minimize environmental damage, and there is no reason to demonstrate against them.

Many of the protesters came from Kibbutz Revivim. Others came from Yerubam, Dimona, Beersheba, and the Beduin town of Ramat Hovav. The Beduin said they were the first to be harmed by the operations of the site and the several chemical plants in the area.

Seven Greenpeace activists, dressed in white coveralls and wearing gas masks, chained themselves to the site's entrance gates, thereby preventing either access or exit for several hours.

The site's management did not call the police, preferring to avoid a confrontation with the demonstrators. Instead, they brought cold drinks to the protesters, and waited patiently for the protest to break up. (Itim)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pollard: Netanyahu failed me in D.C.
Convicted spy Jonathan Pollard has accused Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and his government of failing to do anything on his behalf during his trip to Washington.

"I am absolutely disgusted, but not surprised by the fact that Prime Minister Netanyahu has blatantly betrayed the promises he made to my wife and to Rabbi [Mordchai] Eliahu to seek my immediate release during his recent trip to Washington," Pollard wrote in a press release issued this week.

"I am an Israeli citizen, and securing my immediate release is a principle that the government legally obliged itself to fulfill according to the government guidelines it signed," he added. "The prime minister of Israel owes it to the people of Israel to bring me home now."

Jerusalem Post Staff

Health Ministry gets new director-general
Prof. Gabriel Barabash, director of the Souraski Medical Center (Ichilov and Dana hospitals) in Tel Aviv, has been named director-general of the Health Ministry. Barabash will take office after the nomination is approved by the cabinet.

Dr. Boaz Lev, the associate director-general of the ministry, has been filling in as acting director-general for the past few weeks, since the sudden departure of Dr. Meir Orea, the previous director-general.

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Clinton beefs up US Gulf might, critics persist

WASHINGTON (Reuter) - President Bill Clinton yesterday ordered 3,500 US troops to Kuwait as part of a plan to "keep Saddam Hussein in a box," but failed to silence Republican criticism of his effort to deter Iraq.

Clinton, trying to manage a tricky foreign policy challenge in the midst of the presidential election campaign, briefed congressional leaders on his Gulf strategy before starting a four-day political trip to the Midwest and West.

Defence Secretary William Perry, just back from a trip to the Middle East to rally support for the president's plan, also took part in the 90-minute briefing, as did Secretary of State Warren Christopher and General John Shalikashvili, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Speaking with reporters afterwards, Clinton disputed a Washington Post report that he was having second thoughts about reinforcing US ground forces in Kuwait because a showdown with Saddam, Iraq's president, was easing.

"I authorized the deployment last weekend and ... the deployment orders were signed last night," Clinton said in denying

that plans to send the troops had been put on hold.

"I was surprised when I read the story today (about possible suspension of the troop deployment) and I asked for an explanation of it and none of our people had one because I asked for the deployment last weekend and, as I said, the orders were signed last night," Clinton said.

He did not say when the troops might actually go.

They would join 1,500 US soldiers already in Kuwait, one of the world's largest oil exporters. It was overrun by Iraqi troops in 1990, an invasion triggered the 1991 Gulf War.

At the Pentagon, an official said the deployment would occur in a matter of days. "The order has been received, and it will be 3,500 troops. I expect they will go in the coming days," said the official, who asked not to be identified.

The Pentagon announced last Friday that 5,000 armored troops from the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas, would go to Kuwait, but the movement was held up until Kuwait gave permission for them to be sent.

The defence official said that the deployment had been

reduced from 5,000 to 3,500 because "we decided that is the number we needed."

Clinton defended his ordering of cruise missile strikes against air defence facilities in southern Iraq two weeks ago in retaliation for an Iraqi move against Kurds in the north.

He said the attacks - and the accompanying expansion of a no-fly zone in southern Iraq from which Iraqi warplanes are excluded - were designed to improve the US strategic position in the Gulf and "keep Saddam Hussein in a box and limit his ability to threaten his neighbors."

Clinton said that hitting Iraqi Republican Guard troops in northern Iraq, as some of his critics have urged, would have been inappropriate, since they were allied with one of the factions involved in Kurdish infighting.

Referring indirectly to the possibility that such a move might have resulted in American casualties, Clinton said the course his critics proposed would have "a very high price."

"We did the appropriate thing in the appropriate way and we've gotten the results that we sought," Clinton said.



Bosnian workers for the OSCE (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe) sort absentee ballots cast in the Bosnian election late yesterday afternoon at a warehouse in a Sarajevo suburb. Final results of the Bosnian elections have not yet been determined as counting is taking longer than originally expected. (AP)

Syrian-backed candidates win east Lebanon vote

BEIRUT (Reuter) - Syrian-backed candidates won a resounding victory in the last round of Lebanon's five-stage parliamentary elections, winning all but two of the 23 Bekaa Valley seats, official results showed yesterday.

Official results of Sunday's Bekaa vote showed a Syrian-backed list that included several ministers and deputies and candidates of Hizbullah and the secular Amal, Lebanon's two main Shi'ite Moslem movements, winning 21 seats.

The results, announced by Interior Minister Michel al-Murr, determined the final form of the 128-seat half-Christian half-Moslem parliament where pro-Syrian candidates won an overwhelming majority in five voting rounds begun on August 18.

Total voter turnout in all five rounds was put at 44 percent of

some 2.57 million eligible voters in Lebanon, compared with turnout of 30% in 1992 polls.

The main loser on the Syrian-backed ticket in the Bekaa was Education Minister Robert Ghanem who lost by a small margin to Henri Sbeideh, a Christian independent running on a small list.

Ghanem, one of six ministers on the list, was the only one to lose among 21 members of the 29-man cabinet who ran in the polls.

The highest number of votes, 105,192, was received by the candidate of the Syrian-backed Amal Movement, Housing Minister Mahmoud abu Hamdan. An Amal ally also won - meaning the group now has six members and three allies in parliament, including its chief Nabih Berrt, speaker of the outgoing assembly.

Sunday's winners also included three candidates and two allies of

Hizbullah, which ran jointly with rival Amal under a Syrian-brokered election deal that also covered the south Lebanon vote on September 8.

Hizbullah's victory in the Bekaa and south Lebanon where four of its candidates won was a political comeback for the militant group after set backs in two earlier rounds of voting when two of its MPs lost their seats.

The group now has seven MPs and two supporters compared with eight MPs and four supporters in the outgoing assembly.

Political sources said Syria greatly influenced the makeup of the Bekaa list - a disparate group of rivals all viewed however as allies of Syria - to prevent the election of politicians it dislikes and to avert a showdown at the ballot box between Amal and Hizbullah in the mainly Shi'ite regions.

Radiation in Chernobyl 'sarcophagus' rises sharply

KIEV (Reuter) - Radiation levels rose sharply inside the Chernobyl nuclear power plant's ruined fourth reactor and scientists are investigating whether this could lead to a chain reaction, a director said yesterday.

Valentyn Kupny, in charge of the "sarcophagus" surrounding the reactor, said meters inside the cracking steel and concrete structure had shown big increases for a time on Monday.

Kupny said three of 10 meters had shown increases in neutron radiation inside the sarcophagus, the protective casing hurriedly erected after the fourth reactor exploded on April 26, 1986 and sent radiation over much of Europe.

He said a commission had been set up to examine the incident, the third in 10 years.

"The latest increases were temporary. No final conclusions were drawn from the earlier instances whether a chain reaction had been started," Kupny said by telephone from Chernobyl, 140 km north of Kiev.

"Everything that is inside has not been fully studied or understood. We do not have a sufficiently complete control system."

If a chain reaction was produced, he said, "it would not be an explosion or some huge noisy process. But it could involve a big release of radiation into the atmosphere."

Ukrainian officials say rebuilding the sarcophagus is the top priority in making safe and closing down the Chernobyl plant, where two reactors still produce five percent of the country's electricity.

President Leonid Kuchma has promised to close the two reactors still functioning at Chernobyl by the year 2000, but officials say they cannot meet the deadline unless the West begins providing some of the more than \$3 billion it has agreed to provide in aid and loans.

Experts differ on how much fuel remains inside the reactor, with estimates ranging from 90 to 160 tonnes.

A Western-backed project to build a new sarcophagus, estimated to cost \$1.2 billion, was first made public three years ago but no steps have yet been taken to build it.

Kupny said the project, designed by a Franco-British consortium was a "dead letter" as no financing had been found.

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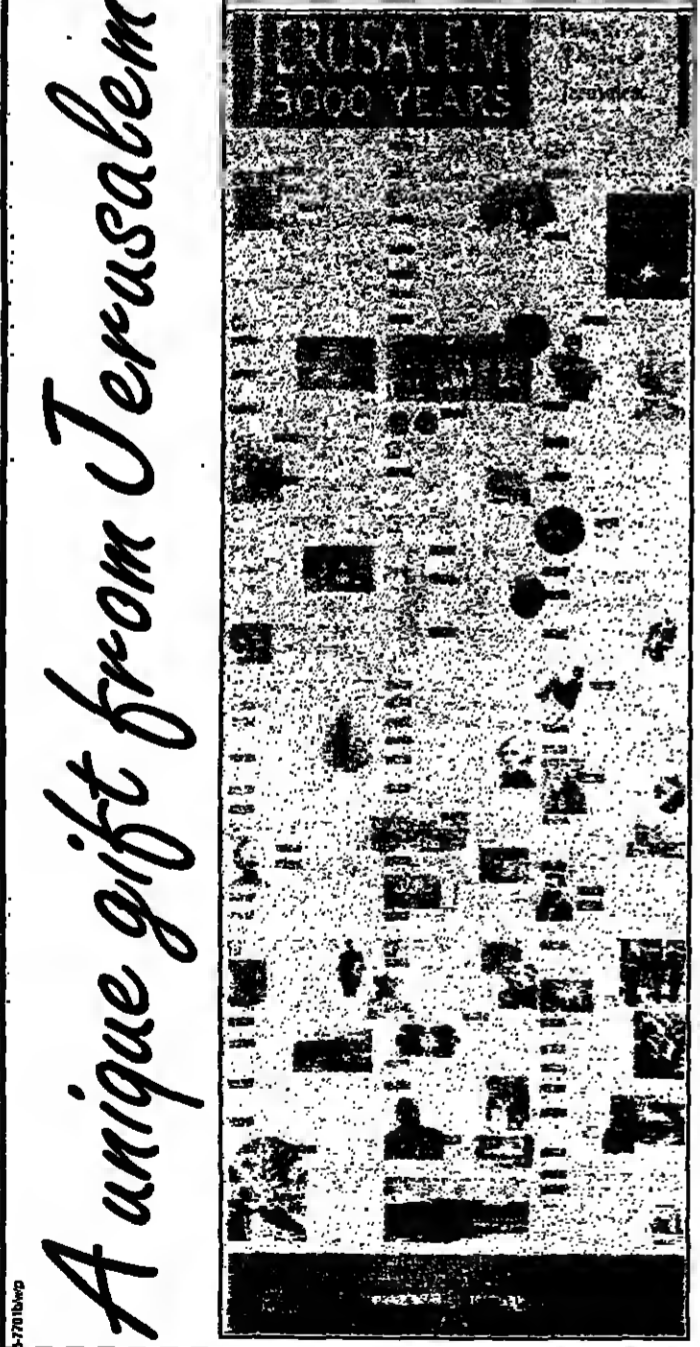
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Irish pub owners demand looser closing hours

DUBLIN (Reuter) - Ireland's pubs, for years the headquarters of a quirky national anarchy, pressed parliament yesterday to be allowed to choose their own closing hours.

The Chambers of Commerce, the moutpiece of shops and businesses, told parliament market forces rather than age-old laws should govern when the nation's 30,000 pubs should be open.

"The Chambers are delighted to note that parliament is taking a serious look at the issue of reform of our licensing laws," chief executive Paul Skehan told a parliament committee.

At present pubs are open around 12 hours a day but usually close at midnight. On Sundays they observe what is called "holy hour," a two-hour closure said to be enforced to allow people to attend Mass.

But closing hours are often flouted. Many pub owners simply lock the doors with the drinkers still inside and pretend to be closed; a practice which is especially hard to police in far-flung rural areas.

Parliament is studying changing the laws after pub owners and some parliamentarians complained that closing hours were anachronistic and puzzled tourists, a key source of revenue.

Bossi probed after 'independence' day

MANTUA, Italy (Reuter) - Magistrates yesterday named separatist Umberto Bossi as one of several people under investigation after the weekend declaration of "independence" for northern Italy.

Mario Luperto, prosecutor for the northern city of Mantua, confirmed Bossi was under investigation.

He gave no details of any possible charges Bossi could face but judicial sources said the likely ones were attacking the unity of the state, inciting others, breaking a ban on military-style groups and ethnic discrimination.

At the same time, magistrates in Venice also announced they had opened a preliminary inquiry into the Northern League's declaration in the lagoon city on Sunday.

They did not name names or any specific crimes.

"Before we proceed, we shall look at all the evidence," said prosecutor Viniliano Fortunati.

Italy's post-World War Two constitution makes it an offence to threaten national unity or independence.

Former constitutional court president Ettore Gallo has called for Bossi to be arrested for defying the constitution.

Bossi said on Monday that if he were arrested, he would immediately declare himself a prisoner of war.

Bossi repeatedly denounced southerners and called for secession as he travelled the length of the northern River Po from Friday to Sunday. He declared the existence of an "independent federal republic of Padania" in Venice.

Luperto said his office was looking into "the green shirts above all and, in particular, the national guard which is a distinct entity to the green shirts."

Many of Bossi's militant supporters wear green shirts, a move that to many Italians harks ominously back to World War Two Fascist times when dictator Benito Mussolini's diehard supporters wore black shirts.

Some of those acting as officials at Bossi's weekend rallies had the words "National Guard" on their shirt sleeves and pockets, with names such as the "Viper Brigade".

Bossi said at the weekend that he intended to found a voluntary national guard to defend his new "republic".

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Yeltsin stays in hospital longer than planned

MOSCOW (Reuter) - The Kremlin said yesterday President Boris Yeltsin was likely to spend the rest of this week in hospital as he prepares for heart surgery - a stay which appears longer than planned.

Yeltsin, 65, looked tanned and relaxed in brief silent footage released by Russian television showing him meeting Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin in hospital yesterday. It was not clear why there was no sound.

Yeltsin, wearing an open-necked

white shirt and grey cardigan, smiled and gestured with his arms as he sat chatting with Chernomyrdin in a sequence lasting about a minute.

Despite Yeltsin's apparent vigor, presidential press secretary Sergei Yastrzhembsky said the Kremlin leader was still undergoing tests in Moscow's Central Clinical Hospital.

It is very likely that Boris Nikolayevich (Yeltsin) will stay in the Central Clinical Hospital until the end of the week, Yastrzhembsky told a Kremlin briefing.

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Moroccan gov't muzzles satirist

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Why the Golan is not enough for Assad

It is doubtful whether Yitzhak Rabin really specified the "June 4 borders" between Israel and Syria - and not the international borders - as the line of Israeli withdrawal, as was recently published. But one thing is for sure: Rabin was ready to give the entire Golan to the Syrians, and Shimon Peres wanted to follow suit.

The troubling question is, therefore, not why Rabin and Peres wanted to make peace with Syria, but rather why Syria - after knowing the facts of the Israeli position on the Golan - still froze the political process, escalated the military tension in South Lebanon and hosted the terror organizations who devastated Israeli cities in waves of unprecedented terror which contributed to the fall of a government that was ready to give them back the Golan.

The inevitable question is: are the Syrians stupid, or do they want some-

thing else from Israel, other than the Golan? As we do not consider the Syrians to be stupid, we must find out what the "something else" they are looking for is. The answer can help us in understanding their current behavior and their possible actions in the near future.

One key to solve the riddle could be found in the Syrian foreign minister's remark in lieu of the latest problem surrounding resuming negotiations with Israel. Farouk Shara called upon the US to restore Israel to its "natural dimensions." This remark reflects the previous Syrian objection to let Israel penetrate the Arab economic markets.

Hence, the Syrians do not consider the peace process as aiming to change the whole mentality in the Middle East from belligerency to peaceful existence - not to mention cooperation - but to continue the struggle in different ways. They do not take normal economic relations at

face value but interpret them as Israeli attempts to conquer the Arab world through economic means.

Therefore, despite the fact that Israel offered the Golan to Damascus, Syria was still bothered by what Israel wanted in return: to have a comprehensive peace with full economic relations.

The Syrians probably came to the conclusion that such a move would strengthen the Israeli position, open Arab markets for her penetration, and in the end would become a bad deal for Syria. We must therefore start to contemplate whether Syria regards the withdrawal from the Golan not as a step to establishing peace in the Middle East, but to weakening Israel in the path of reinstating its "normal dimensions."

ANALYSIS
PINHAS INBARI

Within this framework we may now better understand the Syrian refusal to participate in the multilateral track of the peace negotiations that aimed to consolidate the peace process on economic cooperation. Furthermore, Damascus intimidated the Gulf countries which were really interested in intensifying economic relations with Israel. It is unclear to what degree Syria played a clandestine role in some of the disturbances in the Gulf.

Even more disturbing is the possibility that Egypt may be persuaded by Syria to perceive the peace process through her eyes. Instead of "educating" Syria to enter the peace process in good faith, Egyptian foreign minister Amr Mussa seemed to be "educated" by Damascus to

apprehend the peace process in dubious ways.

It seems that some Egyptian leaders share the Syrian view that Cairo may lose its pivotal role as a Middle East superpower because of "Israeli economic hegemony" in the area. This can explain Egyptian hesitation in convening the conference in Cairo, and the new Egyptian reservations concerning the multilateral track of the peace process.

These developments are of special importance to the Israeli-Jordanian Jordan. Syria will try to intimidate Jordan into proceeding with its normalization process with Israel. It has already started.

Is there anything that can be done to stop this development? Of course. First of all, the decline of the promising economic track is a blow to the European countries, as they have a special interest in turning the Middle East into a prosperous area, as a means to put an end to the

fundamentalist threat. It is of no coincidence that the European community is deeply involved in the multilateral track and in the various economic development programs in the area.

Secondly, we should notice that Syria has not succeeded, as yet, in dragging Egypt off the correct foreign ministers in Cairo, Egypt balanced Syrian demand to boycott the multilateral track of the peace process. President Mubarak gave a solemn obligation to convene the economic conference after all.

As strange as it may seem, the Syrian build-up in Lebanon is its signal that it is not interested in the current deadlock in peace negotiations with Israel. Syria may have turned down the most generous Israeli offer to have the Golan back, but in its most mysterious ways, Damascus feels inconvenienced by the fact that it has been left behind by its Arab brothers.

Moroccan gov't muzzles satirist

MOROCCAN authorities banned a show by satirist Ahmed Sanoussi, nicknamed Biziz, due to have been held last week in Rabat, but gave no explanation, a human rights group said.

Biziz's work includes mocking Morocco's human rights record and parodies of powerful government figures like Interior Minister Driss Baszi. The US-based Human Rights Watch says he is the most censored artist in the kingdom.

"Sanoussi was prevented from entering the theater where the show was planned to end a summer university on human rights convened by Moroccan human rights groups and their counterpart from the French city of Lyon," a spokesman for the Moroccan Human Rights Association (AMDH) said.

Asked by telephone, an interior ministry spokesman said he was not aware of the incident.

"We complied with all official requirements to stage the show in the theater, which belongs to the culture ministry, but it was unfortunately banned with no previous warning," the independent AMDH said.

Biziz has been banned from the domestic private and public television and radio since 1986. He remains Morocco's most popular independent satirist with cassette recordings of his work widely distributed in universities and popular areas.

Former human rights minister Mohamed Ziyane has said Biziz was banned "because he makes politics instead of performing art." Human rights ministry officials were not available for comment. (News agencies)

UAE gains popularity among bird watchers

DUBAI, better known for its shopping bargains, is attracting another kind of tourist: bird watchers.

American and European bird watchers who have been flocking to the United Arab Emirates bringing in some 2.8 million dirhams (\$767,000) worth of tourist income every year, the *Gulf Today* reported.

More than 10 companies around the world that cater to bird watchers have put the UAE on their itineraries, the English-language newspaper said. "The Emirates is becoming the most fashionable bird-watching location in the world," the paper quoted Colin Richardson, a senior official of the Emirates Bird Records Committee, as saying. "People can see up to 200 birds during a 10-day holiday," he said.

The paper gave no figure for the number of bird enthusiasts who visit the UAE each year.

The UAE is a popular tourist destination in the Gulf, mainly due to its relaxed lifestyle and low-tax shopping bargains. (AP)



Two little faces peek from the trunk of the jam-packed Egyptian family car after a summer holiday trip to Alexandria. (Reuters)

Kurdistan: Whose land is it, anyway?

KURDISTAN, the strifetorn expanse of rugged mountains and parched valleys that straddles the remotest reaches of four sovereign states - Turkey, Syria, Iraq and Iran - is likely to remain an arena of incessant warfare well into the 21st century.

The estimated 20 million ethnic Kurds will go on fighting for self-determination despite the refusal of all four Middle Eastern governments within whose borders they live to grant them statehood or even a genuine form of autonomy.

Plagued by intercommunal conflict, especially between the political parties led by Jalal Talabani and Massoud Barzani and discredited by the terrorist tactics of the Syrian-backed PKK (Kurdish Workers Party), the Kurds have become pawns in the hands of the states that dominate them.

Turkey's attitude toward the current crisis in which the US has been trying to punish Iraqi President Saddam Hussein for helping Barzani's KDP (Kurdistan Democratic Party) expel Talabani's PUK (Patriotic Union of Kurdistan) from the northern Iraqi city of Irbil is very intriguing.

Taking a cue from Israel's self-proclaimed "Security Zone" north of and parallel to its international boundary with Lebanon, the Turks are preparing to carve a similar

strip averaging 19 km. in depth east of their border with Iraq.

US Secretary of State Warren Christopher reportedly gave Ankara the green light to implement this plan with the proviso that the Turkish military presence in that section of historic Kurdistan must be temporary and that its confines be narrow. But as some cynics are wont to say, nothing is ever more permanent than the temporary.

Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller lost no time in announcing Turkey's intention to evacuate an undisclosed number of Kurdish villages within the new "Security Zone," a move that would go beyond Israel's operations in southern Lebanon. Her rationale is clear: To prevent the PKK, whose guerrillas allegedly are based in northwestern Iraq, from expanding their 12-year-long fight for Kurdish statehood. To that extent, the US subscribes to Turkey's definition of the PKK as a terrorist organization.

But it also is important to recall that Turkey, which ruled all of Iraq during its pre-World War I political configuration as the Ottoman Empire, would seize control of the Mosul and Kirkuk oilfields within Iraq's Kurdish region if the situa-

On the other hand, Moscow seems to be supporting Massoud Barzani's KDP by accepting his reliance on Iraqi military aid against the KPU.

Ironically, Massoud's late father, Mullah Mustafa Barzani, had hoped to be one of the main beneficiaries of the former Soviet Union's armored drive to Tabriz and the abortive establishment of a Kurdish republic there until it was thwarted in 1946 by President Truman, whose steel determination forced the Red Army to withdraw.

Israel, which later forged cordial and practical links with the elder Barzani, has been left out of the current Kurdish imbroglio.

The late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin chose to end Israeli military and technical involvement in Kurdistan in 1975 when then-secretary of state Henry Kissinger gave his blessing to the late Shah of Iran's tragic decision to sign a deal with Saddam that was meant to end the perennial Iran-Iraq border dispute on condition that the Shah and his allies (the US and Israel) stop helping the Iraqi Kurds.

The Persian emperor was overthrown four years later, shortly after which the first Gulf War erupted between the two neighboring Islamic states.

In short, the Shah betrayed the Kurds and the Iraqis betrayed him.

Jordan, EU to conclude partnership agreement this year

JORDAN said Monday a partnership agreement with the European Union could be concluded before the end of the year.

"Most of the issues have been dealt with. I am hopeful that an agreement will be signed before the end of this year," said Planning Minister Rima Khalaf.

She told an informal press briefing Monday that the conclusion of the agreement was blocked by negoti-

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Patriot missiles arrive in Saudi Arabia

MICHAEL GEORGY

TWO Patriot anti-missile batteries and US soldiers to operate them have arrived in Saudi Arabia in response to the latest tensions with Iraq, a US military official said on Tuesday.

The new Patriot batteries ordered into the theater are in country. They arrived two days ago along with about 170 people," said Lt. Col. Andrew Bourland, Public Affairs Director for the Joint Task Force Southwest Asia. "They were sent here in light of the latest tensions with Iraq," he told Reuters by telephone from Riyadh.

The batteries were sent after Iraq fired missiles at US warplanes last week in the latest military confrontation between Washington and Baghdad. Bourland would not say where the Patriots were being deployed in the kingdom, which served as the launch pad for the 1991 Gulf War that liberated Kuwait from Iraqi occupation.

US Defence Secretary William Perry met Saudi King Fahd over the weekend on a mission aimed at mustering Gulf Arab support for a possible military showdown with Iraq. The kingdom, Washington's chief strategic ally in the Gulf, has distanced itself from the latest US military action against Iraq.

Defence Minister Prince Sultan said last week that, if asked, Saudi Arabia would have refused to give the US access to its bases for recent missile strikes against Iraq.

On Sunday he said there were no US forces in Saudi Arabia. American military personnel in the kingdom were tied to United Nations resolutions, he said.

The remarks underscored deep sensitivities in the kingdom, where two bombs killed 24 Americans and two Indians in the last year, and militant Muslims oppose the American presence in the birthplace of Islam.

The 170 US soldiers who will operate the Patriot missiles joined 5,000 US military personnel already in the kingdom enforcing the no-fly zone over southern Iraq, part of Operation Southern Watch run by the US, Britain and France.

The US military has moved most of its personnel in the kingdom to a desert airbase at al-Kharj, 100 km southeast of Riyadh, following a fuel truck bomb that killed 19 US airmen near Dhahran, eastern Saudi Arabia, in June.

Bourland said the move would be completed in a few weeks. (Reuters)

The world's largest museum

EGYPT, rich in ancient antiquities, is planning to build the world's largest museum to house them but hasn't yet figured out how to pay for it, the nation's chief archaeologist said Wednesday.

Abdel-Halim Nouredin, chairman of the Supreme Council for Antiquities, said the government has set aside more than 70 hectares (175 acres) of land for the project, which is expected to cost more than one billion dollars. Italy and the European Union helped with feasibility studies, he said, but architectural designs and a construction schedule have yet to be worked out. "Our initial plans and a feasibility study took six volumes of blueprints," he told a news conference sponsored by the Foreign Press Association. "But we have to see who will do the financing."

In addition to the land, along the main highway north of Cairo, the government has spent some two million Egyptian pounds (\$588,000) so far on studies, including measures to protect Egypt's treasures from humidity and pollution.

Egypt already has more than 30 museums, including the internationally famous Egyptian Museum in Cairo with nearly 150,000 items on display. But the country still has tens of thousands of artifacts from pharaonic, Greek, Roman, Coptic and Islamic eras in warehouses, due to lack of exhibit space. Some of the warehouses are in remote areas, making them hard to police for theft, and they often lack ventilation and other systems to protect against environmental damage to the treasures, Nouredin said. The antiquities council collects fees for admission to museums and archaeological sites, with most of the funds going for the upkeep of the facilities.

Nouredin said his department plans exhibits abroad - which can raise large sums of money as well as encourage tourism - despite a campaign by some Egyptian activists to ban all usual items from travelling. "I think our antiquities are human heritage and that everybody should have the chance to see them," he said.

Nouredin also complained about premature announcements made by some foreign expeditions working in Egypt about their finds or research. Some, he said, were made with inadequate study or without consultation with Egyptian experts. (AP)

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Weiss misses the point

THE Labor Party's internal postmortem report on its defeat in last May's election, officially released yesterday, takes no less than 290 pages to point to several relatively minor technical problems with Labor's campaign.

But like the proverbial poor dancer who blames the stage for his missteps, MK Shevah Weiss's report falls short of grappling with the potentially painful soul-searching that the Labor Party must undergo.

The main thrust of yesterday's Labor Party report is that salesmanship, as formulated and executed by information chief MK Haim Ramon, is to blame for the party's defeat.

Enough blame is spread around so that no one individual can be expected to be severely damaged by the report. The impression the report leaves is that if only some different television advertisements had been broadcast, had a few polls been more carefully heeded, and if election day hitches could have been smoothed out and voter cards been stamped, the votes which Peres needed to bridge the gap with Binyamin Netanyahu would have been found.

The fact that this is the Labor Party's attitude three-and-a-half months after polling day serves to underscore the party's continuing problems.

percentage points. This indicates that there was more to the direct election for prime minister than a handful of TV ads - the voters were paying attention to the message as well.

Winning elections requires achieving a mass of support and Labor was wrong to assume, from the outset, that it had such backing. There were too many hesitations and doubts among the electorate regarding various aspects of the Oslo agreements and the pace in which they were being implemented.

That Labor chose to ignore polls showing public disaffection with the party and considered public debate over its handling of the Oslo negotiations superfluous provides another major reason for Labor's defeat - its arrogance.

And in what must be a surprise to any non-partisan observer, the Weiss report finds no fault with Labor's candidate for prime minister, Shimon Peres. The campaign's decision to belittle opposing candidate Binyamin Netanyahu by simply ignoring him came back to haunt Labor in the televised debate held three days before the elections.

The implications of Peres's poor showing, both in terms of television performance and electoral results, should not be ignored by the Labor Party. Peres is increasingly looking like a man who simply cannot judge on his own when the time has come to retire.

OPINION



Assad's crisis-building

ARAB attempts to sow panic by slamming the brakes on normalization with Israel didn't start with this government.

MOSHE ZAK

In December 1994, less than 50 days after the ceremony in which Rabin and Jordan's King Hussein ratified the peace treaty between their countries, the leaders of Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Syria met in Alexandria and decided upon a series of actions to block Arab-Israeli normalization.

Instead of confidence-building measures, Syria is pushing the peace process into a pressure cooker

Equally there was little logic to the Arab foreign ministers' razzmatazz in Cairo on Sunday, at the height of American efforts to help renew Israeli-Syrian talks.

What really lay behind the Arabs' decision to slow normalization was not suspicion of Israel's new government but Syria's desire to come to the negotiating table "covered" by the Arab world.

This is exactly what happened in 1994. Syria came away from the Alexandria summit with full Arab backing against Rabin's government.

The summit resolution then said, "The summit values Syria's serious commitment to the success of the peace process and calls upon the international community to work for the elimination of the obstacles erected by Israel."

diplomatic relations with Israel in preparation for war. The Arab foreign ministers who called for a renewal of the diplomatic boycott, no Arab participation in multinational committees and a slowdown in normalization ignored one fact: Both Egypt and the Palestinians are bound by signed agreements to support normalization of relations with Israel.

Back then the US secretary of state promised Arab representatives that immediately following the UN Assembly he would begin a shuttle aimed at reaching agreements between Israel and the Arab states.

It is quite possible that this American promise actually hastened the Arab military initiative that became the Yom Kippur War, since the Arabs believed that an agreement with Israel would cool best at high temperatures.

The current resolution calling on Arab states to slow normalization is part of the war of nerves some Arab countries are conducting against Israel.

The IDF's solution for the Jews of Hebron? Reinforced windows for homes and cars. Not surprisingly this proposal, giving no real protection and imparting a ghetto-like atmosphere to a Jewish community in the heart of the Land of Israel, was rejected outright.

Stop at Hebron

AHARON LEVRAN

REDEPLOYMENT in Hebron unfortunately appears imminent. In keeping with Oslo 2 the entire city except the Jewish Quarter and the Machpela Cave will be granted Area A status, with the Palestinian Authority fully responsible for functional matters and security.

With its deep roots in Jewish history and religion, Hebron differs from other cities in Judea and Samaria. It is the final resting place of our Patriarchs and Matriarchs, and the cradle of King David's dynasty.

Up till the 1929 riots Hebron always had a Jewish community. In our early years of statehood Ben-Gurion and others lamented that we did not take the chance in the War of Independence to conquer the city.

Hundreds of thousands of Jews visit Hebron annually, motivated by national and religious sentiment, making the city no less significant than Jerusalem, that ostensibly enjoys a broad consensus.

Hebron is the only city in Judea and Samaria where Jews and Arabs live side by side. True, the Arab population is several times larger than the Jewish one, but this is due to government stifling of Jewish community development and growth.

The previous government, ignoring Hebron's unique significance, committed the unpardonable sin of including the city in the interim agreement, with severe consequences for its Jews: Municipal services, construction and development will be entrusted to the PA, effectively dictating the Jewish population's size and overall fate.

The interim agreement fails to guarantee the Jewish community's security. The Jewish Quarter and Machpela Cave are on low ground, easily controlled from the nearby surrounding hills. Attackers could fire on Jewish homes and visitors with ease, then disappear into alleyways or Arab homes. Jews would be under constant threat of attack from the many Arabs who identify with fundamentalist Islamic groups like Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, while Arab homes would serve as safe havens.

Neither logic nor morality dictates this government's adherence to Oslo

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SAINT YASSER

Sir, - In a recent article on this page, Uri Avnery would have us believe that Yasser Arafat is a nominee for canonization and it won't be long before we can refer to him as Saint Yasser.

He claims that Yasser is a man of "considerable virtues," but falls short of naming any. That he is the undisputed leader of his people may be true, but only because he ran virtually uncontested in the Palestinian elections except for a token opponent whom no one took seriously.

He mentions the humiliations that Yasser's ministers suffer at the army checkpoints. But he doesn't mention the armed murderers that these various ministers were trying to smuggle back into Israel.

He gives credit to Arafat for leading his people through "35 years of armed struggle." If Arafat were really the saint that Uri Avnery would have us believe, then he would have worked harder to lead his people out of the abyss of poverty and despair into the 21st century. Instead, he used them as pawns in a never-ending cycle of poverty and violence while leaving vast sums of money unaccounted for.

Uri Avnery claims he leads a "complex government" - the same "complex government" that terrorizes its own people and ordered hundreds of them to be brutally killed and tortured. He fails to mention that his government is so "complex" that foreign investors are shy away from it because of fraud and mismanagement of funds.

Uri Avnery fails to mention that this "strong leader" is directly responsible for brutally ordering the killing of the greatest number of Jewish civilians since World War II. He encourages the Arab youth of today to be the "martyrs" of tomorrow and he vowed in Stockholm to wait patiently while the Jewish nation is destroyed from within.

With all good intentions, Uri Avnery is dreaming of an Arafat who doesn't exist. An honor guard and red carpet can't make a world-class leader out of a terrorist. Sorry, Mr. Avnery, most of us don't buy it. RA'ANANA. JUDY LEV

FOREGONE CONCLUSION

Sir, - Although I personally adhere to all the right-wing leanings towards a Greater Israel, it was clear to me that the meeting between our prime minister and Yasser Arafat was a foregone conclusion. Once having established a Palestinian entity with its large armed "police force" and having raised Arafat from outlaw to almost sovereign status, it was sheer hypocrisy of the opposition to compare Netanyahu's "handshake" with the previous "historic" handshakes.

However, what the hardliners in the national camp hope to gain is another matter. Vocalizing their "horror" at the meeting in the media only weakens the government and in no way sets the clock back to pre-Oslo days.

CELIA ILLANOVSKY Ginot Shomron.

CRUSADER COINS

Sir, - With reference to the AP report, "Crusader false gold coins found" (September 4), it is not to be expected that wire services in Egypt will be familiar with *Coinage of the Crusades and the Latin East* by D.M. Metcalf, 2nd Edition, Ashmolean Museum Oxford, 1995. Your readers may however like to know that it is well-known that "The Latins struck imitative dinars modelled on those of the Fatimid Caliph Al-Amir (AH 445-52/AD 1101-30) but normally distinguishable from their prototype by their lower weight, lower fineness, and faulty epigraphy." Dr. Metcalf believes these coins to be primarily for use within the Crusader kingdom, though they have been found northward as far as Aleppo and Maras, and were not intended as an international currency.

This find near Minya is of interest, but has nothing to do with any hypothetical presence of the Crusaders there.

RICHARD P. HARPER Jerusalem.

A hotel & a high horse

YOSSI BEILIN

House is a building in Israel like any other, a guest house in Zichron Ya'acov, for example, and the moment such a building houses offices connected to the PA, the police may close it down on the spot.

If, however, that same building serves as a meeting place to discuss final-status arrangements or to engage in multi-lateral talks, no one can open his mouth.

INSTEAD of declaring that Orient House is an edifice subject to Israeli sovereignty, to Israeli law, and that it's all one to Israel whether Faisal Hussein meets with foreign ministers there or at Kfar Sava's labor council headquarters, the government has turned the issue into one of principle.

The Palestinians weren't slow to understand that Orient House pressed on a national Israeli nerve, and turned the issue into a test of the world's attitude to them.

They turned a visit to Orient House into a visit to the Palestinian Government House, and Israel played into their hands by demanding that the various foreign ministers stay away from this Jerusalem building, as though entering it were a contravention of Israeli law. It isn't.

Binyamin Netanyahu has only exacerbated matters. First he excited the voters that he would close Orient House if he was elected premier. Once elected, however, he realized that there were no grounds for doing so.

fy with fundamentalist Islamic groups like Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, while Arab homes would serve as safe havens.

The IDF's solution for the Jews of Hebron? Reinforced windows for homes and cars. Not surprisingly this proposal, giving no real protection and imparting a ghetto-like atmosphere to a Jewish community in the heart of the Land of Israel, was rejected outright.

ON MORE than one occasion Israel has demonstrated its reluctance to enter areas under exclusive Palestinian control, even in the "hot pursuit" allowed by the Oslo agreements.

The previous government, obsessed by the peace process, apparently ignored the unique significance of Hebron and its essential security needs. The present government, elected because of its entirely different platform and conception of Israel's vital interests, has no logical or moral obligation to honor agreements mapped out earlier.

Had the previous government signed an agreement on dividing Jerusalem, would the present government now be bound to honor it?

No less important, the PA has not kept its obligations. The wave of terrorist attacks in February-March could have been prevented had the PA waged an honest war against terror. The PA also has many more policemen and weapons than stipulated in the agreements; and it has not halted its activity in Jerusalem nor truly rescinded the Palestinian Covenant.

If the Oslo accords are honored in letter and spirit, they will lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state in Judea and Samaria. That goes against the declared policies of the present government and against Israel's interests, and hence implementation of those deplorable accords must stop - at Hebron.

Visiting Hebron about a year ago, Rabin and Shimon Peres stated: "The IDF must not withdraw from Hebron, as Hebron is different from all the other cities."

AVRAHAM YOM-TOV Moshav Katif.

MARK HARDIE Jerusalem (San Francisco).

The writer, a former minister, is a Labor MK

The writer is a former senior official in military intelligence.

Advertisement for 'We all' featuring a large image of a person and text including 'We all', 'AFFORD', 'be without', 'JERUSALEM POST'.

We are as we advertise

Commercials say a lot about Israeli society in general, reports Amy Klein

THE couple is entangled in the bedsheets, her curly auburn hair splayed languidly on the pillow. Suddenly, the doorknob jiggles. Panic! They scramble out of bed; a jangle of bare elbows, knees, legs colliding. He grabs the sheet off the bed as she shoves him out the porch door, just before her husband enters the bedroom.

Wrapped in his sheet, Don Juan sheepishly glances onto the neighboring porches of the apartment building, and to his glee he sees sheet-clad men and women, all of them hiding from their married lovers' spouses. The word "Kitan" flashes across the TV screen.

Since the advent of Channel 2,

over three years ago, hundreds of Israeli companies, like Kitan, have opted to promote their products via television commercials. What they say, and how they say it in their commercials, is itself a comment on their target audience - Israeli society.

"How do you capture an audience?" Arieli account executive Yoav Pridor ponders aloud. He can't unequivocally answer his own question because it is the fundamental dilemma of advertising. "I sell dreams," he says, about the image creation that many of his accounts (including Braun, Carlsberg, Totto) demand. "For Totto we sell the dream of getting rich." And for the dream-makers to understand their

dreamers, most advertising agencies employ researchers to assess the psychological factors that motivate the market.

"Use characters that people can immediately identify with," says Mordit Amar, a senior account executive at Arieli who is responsible for the Tenne Noga ice-cream commercial which stars a family of cows: "The family elicits a smile because it personifies the typical Israeli family."

The two polar bears jumping on mattresses in Gitam/BBDO's Simmons ad also shows a family: "Advertising has to appeal to people," says Jonathan Alhum, an account executive at Gitam/BBDO. "They have to associate with it."

More than utilizing familiar characters, the Noga, Simmons and Kitan commercials all typify a growing phenomenon in Israeli advertising: the use of humor.

"Humor distinguishes commer-

cials from other products. They are more memorable," says Zamir Dachbush, client manager at Zarfati Sternchuss. Flip on the tube and you'll be sure to see comedians such as Gidi Gov or one of the characters of the comedy show *The Cameri Quintet* promoting products such as the Yellow Pages or American Express. *Advertising Age*, the American trade magazine, pointed out that in 1995, seven out of 10 of the most effective American ads used humor.

And in advertising, like so much of Israeli culture, Israel gravitates towards America. "We try to imitate America and Western Europe because this is what sells," says Oren Zurabin, the CEO of Dabaf groups.

Joathan Alhum, a British immigrant account executive at Gitam/BBDO, thinks that the pull is much more towards America than Europe. "The [mere] implication of America is very compelling for an Israeli," he said. Take Pepsi's ads in front of the Statue of Liberty, or RC Cola's vibrant red, white and blue ad that claims: "The Cola that turned America's head."

Like America - where the new Mercedes commercial features a driver so enthralled with his new car that he runs over Ed McMahon, Johnny Carson's sidekick, and super-model Paulina Porizkova - Israel has definitely followed the trend to use humor, but in their own special way. Humor to Israel is distinctly Israeli. Pridor explains: "We are Middle Easterners, our life is very familiar even if we just met... this let's us be more wild and *hutzpadik*."

Compared to America, Israel is a small market which can't afford to cater to specific target groups. Alhum says: "Humor has to be mass market." Pridor makes no excuses: "We want to get the audience from a lower socio-economic background, who might be slower, simpler."

And in appealing to the mass market, Israeli advertising - whether it's an ad with adulterers for sheets, or the sensual licking of the spoon for yogurt - uses sex, or the intimation of it, to sell their products. "That's the tendency all over the world," says Ayelet Metzger, the Second Channel Authority's censor.

But it's not necessarily the use of sex that characterizes Israeli advertising, but the portrayal of women - in sexual and non-sexual advertising. "[Unlike America and Europe] Israeli advertising uses stereotypical women as a sexual object, or typical gender roles, with the man as the decisive maker," says Orit Sulzmann, the spokesperson of the Woman's Network.

"It's true that there is use of a woman as something esthetic," says Zurabin, "but I wouldn't exaggerate." Pridor disagrees. "I admit that we have a problem with portrayal of women. There is definitely a limit to what you should do."



Sometimes, an American theme in an ad is subtle, and sometimes (like this one) it isn't. (GITAM/BBDO)



The fundamental dilemma of advertising: How do you capture an audience? The answer, most often: With humor. (Sivan Farag)



Humor distinguishes commercials from other products. They are more memorable. (GITAM/BBDO)

Advertisements are subject to the standards of the Second Channel Authority, which forbids the promotion of certain items, such as tobacco, weapons, Kabbala and pornography, and limits the airtime of others ("R"-rated movie previews wouldn't be shown before 8). Metzger, who screens all of Channel 2's commercials, said that only about 2% of the commercials were rejected on account of inappropriate or incorrect content. About half of those made it to broadcast after revision. "Advertising matches the Israeli culture," she says, "it's not our job to change the society."

And that is where the Women's Network hopes to effect changes: they are starting a grassroots campaign to encourage people to take action - writing letters of complaint or banning the product outright - which will cost the advertisers even more than they have already paid.

A 30-second spot in off-time costs approximately \$3,500 to \$4,000, and in prime time can run

up to \$10,000, says Dany Sinai, the marketing director for Telad (one of the three commercial broadcasters of Channel 2). A television package, on average, costs \$250,000. This doesn't include production, which can run anywhere from \$60,000 to half a million dollars (factors like location, actors, special effects can all up jack up the price.) "It's a fact that advertising is highly successful," says Sinai, "clients keep coming back."

But at what price? Whether it's the use of humor, sex, or playing on existing stereotypes, it seems that Israeli advertisers appeal to

the man in the street in order to reach the widest possible audience. This touches on a long-standing debate of American culture.

"Even if it is true that commonplace advertising and exhibitions of bad taste are indicative of the mental capacity of the man in the street, the opposing argument is equally valid," said the American design guru Paul Rand in his book *Thoughts on Design*.

"Bromidic advertising catering to that bad taste merely perpetuates that mediocrity and denies him one of the most easily accessible means of aesthetic development."

To hitch or not to hitch?

At one time, hitchhiking in Israel was very prevalent. I hitched all over the country when I was younger. Now I've got teenagers of my own and I want to know how safe it is to hitchhike in Israel today. Some of my friends allow their teenagers to hitch, others don't.

An information officer in the office of the traffic police advised against hitchhiking. She enumerated many problems that could arise for the hitchhiker, including security problems; getting a ride in a stolen vehicle (which means there would be problems with insurance coverage); getting rides with young drivers who have a higher accident rate; and drunken drivers. She noted that the army now has orders against hitchhiking and that because of this, soldiers may travel free

on buses.

She cautioned that despite this, if youngsters do hitchhike, they should take the utmost precautions to stay safe and out of trouble or distract drivers by standing in the middle of the road. They should wear light-colored clothing and stand on a pavement where cars can legally stop.

Today, my three-and-a-half-year-old was tired and was being very, very annoying. Despite the fact that I knew she was tired and had too much excitement, I let my anger build up and I shouted at her. I felt horrible. What can I do in moments like this so that I don't

take my anger out on my child?

Charlotte Slopak, Ph.D., clinical psychologist and psychoanalyst, says:

At such moments Mom needs a "time out." People have thresholds, beyond which they "lose it." You understand how your pre-schooler gets beyond her threshold from being tired and over-excited. You also can reach a point where it seems impossible for you to remain calm and understanding. At that time, a brief physical separation can be beneficial.

Remember that the time to do something is when you first feel the anger building up. If after you've had your break you can't distract your child, tell

her in a neutral but firm tone. "I'm sorry, but your behavior makes me feel angry. I don't want to yell at you, so I'd like you to try to control yourself... Sit down and have a cookie and milk." If that fails, try, "I'm going to count to three, and if you can't sit quietly by then, you'll have to go to your room and take a nap, because I think you are very tired and you are doing things that annoy me because you're so tired."

By the way, shouting at your child at such moments is not "horrible" per se, it depends on what you shouted. There's a significant difference between "That's enough now! I'm tired and you're tired - go to your room!" and "You stupid kid, you are impossible, shut your ugly mouth!" which could be considered a mild example of emotional abuse.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Wednesday, September 18, 1996

Bankers: Brodet plan will accelerate public's flight from savings accounts

ATTEMPTING to induce the public to save for at least 10 years will result in reduced savings...

ings instruments, which is reflected among other places in the mortgage market.

Speaking at a press conference yesterday, Treasury director-general David Brodet said any market has a major institutional player that serves as an overall anchor.

Other bankers, who spoke on condition of anonymity, also expressed concern over the committee's proposal to discriminate against saving plans of up to 10 years.

The proposals include far-reaching structural changes in the long-term saving field, but it has yet to be seen how the capital market will react to the short-term saving changes, the bankers said.

During the last few months banks had proposed encouraging savers to invest for periods of more than five years, despite high interest rates offered on plans, said Wurzburger.

"The average Israeli with children thinks several times before locking funds for an extended period of time," he said.

According to the Brodet Committee, which was set up at the height of the provident-fund crisis in July, the sharp fluctuations in Tel Aviv's capital market are primarily due to the lack of a major long-term institutional factor that could stabilize the market.

The committee also pointed to a severe shortage of long-term sav-

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

and to deter investors from making short-term savings of up to 10 years by imposing capital gains tax.

Among other things, the committee recommends canceling all tax benefits on provident funds that are not intended for retirement age, imposing a 5% tax on unlinked short-term saving plans' nominal interest and levying a 10% tax on the real interest of index-linked or foreign-currency linked plans.

No changes in tax rules on existing training funds have been proposed by the committee, but it will be impossible to make new deposits in funds of six years or more. New deposits will be made into new training funds with a minimum period of 10 years.

The proposals also suggest extending the duration of provident funds above the current 15-year period. Existing provident fund holders will have until

January 1, 2000, to decide whether to extend the provident funds' saving period until retirement age or withdraw their investments at the end of the 15-year period.

New provident fund savers will be obliged to save until retirement age.

According to Wurzburger, inducing savers to invest until their retirement might have the opposite effect. "It will make the situation even worse. It is difficult enough to encourage a young person to invest for 15 years," he said.

The report also proposes increasing the maximum wage entitled to tax benefits to NIS10,300 from the current NIS7,800 on withdrawal of pension savings. The fund ceiling exempted from tax will be raised to NIS5,150 from NIS3,800 today.

The tax on real yields from bonds for individual savers will be reduced to 10% from the current 35%. The committee also proposes gradually reducing capital gain taxes on investments in foreign securities from 35% at present to 25% in the first year and 20% at a later stage.

The tax on dividends that public companies distribute to shareholders will be reduced to 15% from 25%.

The report emphasized there will be no changes in the rules or damage on existing savings routes. Similarly, no changes will be imposed on the veteran pension funds.

The report's release came after trading at the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange had ended, but analysts said it was not likely to generate extraordinary fluctuations in the coming days.

PM aides: Taxing short-term savings would be mistaken

DAVID HARRIS

WHILE Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has yet to give his considered response to the Brodet Committee's report issued yesterday, senior sources at his office last night described the proposals to tax short- and mid-term savings schemes as "mistaken."

The Bank of Israel also expressed dissatisfaction with the report yesterday, saying in a communique that the time was not right for taxing any saving plans, though an overall "rationalization" of the taxation system would be "desirable" in the future.

Both prior to, and since the report's publication, economists in the Prime Minister's Office expressed concern that taxation of savings plans which run for less than 10 years will have a serious negative effect on middle- and low-income earners.

"People who put money in these accounts may be doing so for a bar mitzvah celebration, to send a child to university, or to build another room on their apartment," the sources said.

The economic benefit from taxing such people will be "negligible," added the officials. "This is

neither wise nor just."

"The problems are a lack of confidence in the capital markets and a general sense of disquiet," according to the sources, who said it is impossible to encourage long-term saving, the main aim of the Brodet Committee, by acting in the short- to mid-term.

The belief among Netanyahu's aides is that this is not the last Treasury administered report on the subject, and the office reserves the right to accept or reject any of its recommendations.

The differences between the Treasury and Prime Minister's Office are said to be professional, not personal, and the sources denied there is any attempt to hamper the influence of either Finance Minister Dan Meridor or his ministry's director general, David Brodet.

Since the report's publication yesterday morning, the sources met Meridor, where opinions were exchanged.

The view of the Prime Minister's Office were acknowledged, but disputed by Meridor, the sources said.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Fahd urges private sector to employ Saudis: Saudi Arabia's King Fahd has called on the private sector in the kingdom to employ more Saudi nationals, the Saudi Press Agency reported yesterday.

Some economists estimate unemployment in Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil producer, as high as 20% and climbing. Some 60% of the population is under the age of 20. The kingdom is using a big stick method with the private sector by withholding loans from companies of 20 people or more which do not increase Saudi labor by at least 5%.

Bezeq denies report it will move headquarters out of Jerusalem: Bezeq yesterday strongly denied an Israel Radio report which said the company planned to move its Jerusalem headquarters to Ramat Gan and take hundreds of workers with it.

German firm to advise local companies on R&D proposals: German company Zenit will advise Israeli firms involved in research and development on how to present R&D proposals to the European Union. Zenit, which is known as one of the most successful technology consultants in Europe, was selected at the initiative of the Science Ministry.

Bank of Jerusalem signs agreement to buy Unitrust: The Bank of Jerusalem is entering the capital market with the purchase of Unitrust, a security investment company for NIS7.8 million.

Unitrust, a member of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, is mainly engaged in dealings on the stock exchange, portfolio management, underwriting issues and mutual fund management.

Italian Air Force buys Tadiran Spectralink's rescue equipment: The Italian Air Force has purchased \$5 million worth of rescue equipment from Tadiran Spectralink, a subsidiary of Tadiran Communications Ltd., the company announced yesterday.

Spectralink's Airborne Search and Rescue Systems are designed to help locate pilots if they crash. One part of the system includes a device that is installed in the airplane, while another device is attached to the pilot's fatigues.

If a pilot crashes, the device in the fatigues emits a signal that can be read for up to 200 kilometers. Motorola and Cubic also competed for the tender.

Palestinian investment bank to open by end of year

AMMAN (Reuters) - Newly set-up Arab Palestinian Investment Bank (APIB), established with World Bank support, will open in Palestinian self-rule areas by the end of this year, officials said yesterday.

They said APIB, the first financial venture between Palestinian businesses and the IFC, the World Bank's private sector investment arm, would focus on longer-term credit for project finance to Palestinian enterprises.

"Along with the IFC, we have set up an investment bank to support industrial, commercial and agricultural projects in Palestine... It will be a boost to the economy of the Palestinian areas," said Abdul Majid Shoman, the chairman of the newly launched bank, and Amman-based Arab Bank. APIB's main

shareholder. APIB will focus on medium and long-term credit to industrial and commercial enterprises in the West Bank and Gaza that Jordanian retail banks have been shy away from, bank officials said.

APIB, which held its first board meeting on Monday in Amman, had its first AGM meeting on Sunday in Ramallah, the bank's head office, reviewing plans for the bank's official launch before year-end.

APIB's \$15 million paid-up capital has a 55 percent share owned by Arab Bank, a 25% stake held by IFC, a 15% stake by German Deutsche Investitions und Entwicklungsgesellschaft and a 5%

stake subscribed by the offshore company Enterprise Investment Company.

It plans to seek cheaper credit from its main shareholders in project financing than other financial institutions.

APIB also targets a key role in introducing new financial instruments and activating the Palestinian capital market, said Omar Masi of the Enterprise Investment Company. APIB plans to eventually raise its capital in stages to \$30 million, investors said.

Arab Bank, established in 1930 and the oldest Palestinian bank, has captured the main share of a banking boom in self-rule areas since 1993, when Jordanian banks resumed operations in the territories after a 26-year absence following the Six-Day War.

PROSPECTUS PIA-TARGET-(MATARA) MUTUAL FUND Notice regarding the publication of a prospectus

Fund Manager Leumi-PIA Trust Management Company Ltd. (Member of the Bank Leumi le-Israel Group of Companies)

Open Fund The Fund is an "Open Fund" as defined by the Joint Investments Trust Law, 5754-1994 (in this Prospectus "the Law").

Offering of Units to Foreign Residents* Only Under Section 31(b)(2) of the law, the following is a statement concerning the publication of a Prospectus, which contains: An unlimited number of registered Fund units of a nominal value of one U.S. dollar (hereinafter "dollar") are offered at the unit price, as determined from time to time, plus a 1% or less increment as detailed in Chapter A of this Prospectus.

The Fund's Investment Policy and transactions for the Funds (see Chapter F of the Prospectus)

- 1. The Fund Agreement provides that: (a) The Fund will invest only in securities and options in which investment is permitted according to the law and regulations as well as the special permits of the Controller of Foreign Currency, granted from time to time, which permit foreign residents to purchase the Fund units in foreign currency deposited in a non-resident foreign currency deposit account and deposit in such deposit account, the payments payable to them and the proceeds of redemption of their units in the Fund, so long as such special permits will be necessary. (b) Subject mentioned above, the provisions of paragraph 3(i) of Chapter F of the Prospectus and of any law, the Fund Manager may invest the Fund's resources in his exclusive discretion and is empowered also to fix the cash amount to be comprised in the Fund assets, from time to time.

The Fund's Major Investments in the year ended 30.6.1996 and in the year ended 30.6.1995

The average major investments of the Fund (according to holdings at the end of each month) in the year ended 30.6.96 and the year ended 30.6.95 was as follows:

Table with 3 columns: Investment type, Year ended 30.6.96, Year ended 30.6.95. Rows include Foreign shares, Foreign bonds, Shares traded in Israel, Cash in Foreign currency.

Data concerning the yield of the Fund's Units in correlation to the changes in various indices:

Table with 3 columns: Index, Rates of Increase/Decrease in year ending 30.6.96, Rates of Increase/Decrease in year ending 30.6.95. Rows include Yield of fund's units, Index of shares traded on the TASE, Consumer Price Index, Representative rate of exchange.

Validity of Permit of the Controller of Foreign Currency for operating the Fund

Unrestricted Fund The Fund is an "unrestricted fund". Details of the tax provisions applicable to an unrestricted fund are set out in section 6 of Chapter O of the Prospectus, under the heading "Taxation" (see Chapter N of the Prospectus).

Cumulative Fund Unless otherwise decided by the Fund Manager's Board of Directors, the Fund will be cumulative and accordingly, the Fund Manager will pay no payments to the unit holders.

Annual Fees of Fund Manager and Trustee (see Chapter J of this Prospectus) Under the Fund Agreement, the Fund Manager is entitled to receive an annual fee equivalent to 4% of the average annual value of the Fund's assets as calculated for the purpose of fixing the unit price but, unless otherwise decided by the Fund Manager, it will receive an annual fee equal to 1.5% of the aforementioned value.

Expressions used in the Prospectus Expressions used in the Law and in the regulations made thereunder, will bear the same meanings when used in this Prospectus, save where the context otherwise requires.

The Hebrew version of the Fund Agreement, certificates of participation in the Fund and of the Prospectus are the exclusively binding text. The translator of the Prospectus has certified that the English translation of the Prospectus is a faithful translation of the Hebrew original (the certificate appears in Appendix I of the Prospectus).

Requests for Fund units will be submitted to the Fund Manager by the central operations department of Bank Leumi le-Israel B.M., at 4 Lillienblum Street, Tel Aviv, and the members of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange. A copy of the prospectus and copies of the permits for its publication were submitted to the Registrar of Companies. Copies of the Prospectus can be acquired at any Bank Leumi le-Israel branch, and from securities agents who are members of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

*In this Prospectus "Foreign Resident" is as defined in the Currency Control Law 5738-1978, and in the Currency Control Permit 5738-1978 as Set out in Appendix E hereof. Under the said Currency Control Permit (section: Validity of Permit of Controller of Foreign Currency to operate the Fund), Israeli residents (including holders of an exemption) are not entitled to acquire units of this Fund.

5 Tshere, 5757 13 September, 1996 The Trustees: Kesselman & Kesselman Trust Co. (1971) Ltd.



DRUG

(Continued from Page 1) Even a cursory review of the report shows the committee did what it was told to do - although its thrust was directed overwhelmingly at the first two issues on its agenda, while the latter two received superficial treatment because of the very tight timetable imposed on the committee.

A series of topics, some fundamental and some merely complex, was referred to other teams and committees due to be set up, work, and report back over the coming months.

However, the committee's main achievements are not that it followed its instructions, but that it ignored a great deal of bad advice it received and effectively admitted that the pension fund bail-out of March 1995 was a massive blunder that must be reversed for the capital markets to function at all.

All the errors of omission, commission and imbalance that a detailed analysis of the committee's recommendations can identify pale into insignificance compared to these two achievements.

The committee rightly spurned any approach that would have brought short-term relief and won it popular acclaim, but it did so to prevent at the cost of aggravating

underlying long-term structural problems. It stressed the negative impact of the pension fund bail-out and rejected the numerous appeals to it to recommend wider use of non-tradable bonds carrying guaranteed yields. In fact, it recommended that these arrangements be reduced, rather than expanded.

The committee also had the guts to spell out just how illogical and inequitable is the patchwork of tax breaks and liabilities that currently exist in various savings and investment mechanisms, although it will

be derided and scorned as a result. By so doing, the Brodet Committee has challenged a plethora of politicians, bankers, unions and lobbyists to face the reality that free lunches take the food off somebody else's plate.

If, as is probable, the politicians will prefer to duck the challenge by burying the report, Tel Aviv's financial markets will continue to disintegrate.

The consequent crisis will eventually force the adoption of much more severe measures than the moderate ones Brodet is suggesting, after severe damage is sustained by businesses, savers and the macro-economy itself.

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ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS. Table with columns for Currency (deposit for), 3 MONTHS, 6 MONTHS, 12 MONTHS. Rows include U.S. dollar, Pound sterling, French franc, German mark, Swiss franc, Yen. Also includes Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (17.9.96) with sub-tables for CHECKS AND TRANSFERS, BANKNOTES, and Rep. Rates**.

Monday, September 18, 1996
BRIEFS
... out of ...

Key Representative Rates
US dollar ... NIS 3.1710
Sterling ... NIS 4.9293
Mark ... NIS 2.0967

NEW YORK STOCK MARKET

New York market indexes

DI Industrials
DI Transport
DI Mid Cap
NYSE Composite

Other stock market indexes

Israeli stocks in NY

NYSE /AMEX
Am & Pk
Amgen
Amstar

INFLATION MARKETS

Dollar crosses (US)

Franc
Mark
Sfranc
Yen

Labor rates

Dollar
Euro
Sterling

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.

Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds
34 Ben Yehuda St.
Tel. 02-244963, 03-5758826

NEW YORK COMMODITIES AND METALS

US commodities

Cocoa
Coffee
Cotton
Sugar

Spot market metals (US)

Copper
Gold
Silver

New York metal futures

Copper
Gold
Silver

London commodities

Cocoa
Coffee
Cotton

Spot market metals (US)

Copper
Gold
Silver

New York metal futures

Copper
Gold
Silver

London metal futures

Copper
Gold
Silver

Month in parenthesis signals contract exp. date
(All prices are closing prices)
CommStock Trading Ltd. (Date 17-SEP-96)

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading

Commercial Banks
Yemot
Yotam
Yotat

Two-sided trading

Afternoon
Morning
Name
Price
Change

Property, Building & Agriculture

Trade & Services
Name
Price
Change

Oil Exploration

PARALLEL LIST
Trade & Services
Property, Building & Agriculture

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

NEW YORK
Alcoa
Alumina
Amgen

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

London
Frankfurt
Paris

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

London
Frankfurt
Paris

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

London
Frankfurt
Paris

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

London
Frankfurt
Paris

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(All prices are closing prices)
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Shares rise on hope for rate cut

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

DAN GERSTENFELD

Two-Sided index
Maot index

SHARES closed higher in mixed and active trading on expectations the Bank of Israel will lower interest rates next week, traders said.

The benchmark Two-Sided Index gained 1.49 percent, or 0.76 points, to 196.59 on a high all-share turnover of NIS 102 million, against NIS 90m. on Monday.

The Maot Index rose 0.84% to 205.88. "Activity was relatively high but the market is very nervous," said Ron Weisberg at IBI Investment House.

The market expects the Bank of Israel will lower interest rates, he said. "The minimal rise of the money supply gives the central bank another reason to lower the rate."

Israel's M1 money supply rose only 0.1% in August following a 4.1% rise in July. Africa Israel Investments surged 6% to 411.697.

Traders at the exchange said the increase was a technical correction and that the share rose in very low volume. Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, the third most active share, gained 4% to 135,706 an volume of NIS 9m. after its share traded on Nasdaq jumped 7.1% on Monday.

The most active shares were Bezeq Israel Telecom, which gained 2.75% to 825 on volume of NIS 1.1m. and Konr Industries, which fell 0.25% to 28,367 on turnover of NIS 10.4m.

UK, German stocks close down on new rate fears

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - Key European bourses ended down after touching peaks yesterday, as worries about US interest rates were rekindled, ending Wall Street's record-breaking run.

London and Frankfurt soared briefly to new highs, cheered by a short-lived positive opening on Wall Street, then quickly lost ground as the tide in New York changed and stocks plunged 0.6 percent in the first hour.

Wall Street's early gains were wiped out after comments by a senior central bank Federal Reserve official led the market to believe interest rates might be raised.

The unidentified official said eight out of 12 Fed banks had asked for an increase in the 5% discount rate. Of the eight banks, three had requested a raise in interest rates of 50 basis points.

Blue-chip stocks close with small losses

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Blue-chip stocks ended with small losses yesterday as buyers were afraid to chase the market to a third straight record high close amid renewed fears of an interest rate hike by the Federal Reserve.

The Nasdaq market, meanwhile, gained on the strength of technology shares. Based on early and unofficial data, the Dow Jones industrial average ended off 0.37 of a point at 5,888.83 after setting records on Monday and Friday.

In the broader market, declining issues led advances 14.9 on active volume of 443 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES
MARK STERLING YEN SF FF

Labor report - Too many stars ran the show

SARAH HONIG

FORMER prime minister Shimon Peres said yesterday that only the public will judge whether he is responsible for the May electoral loss to Benjamin Netanyahu and the Likud.

Peres said he blames no one and accepts no blame himself. He said he would again face the public's verdict, but refused to elaborate about when or whether this means he would run again.

Peres was speaking at a press conference in the Knesset yesterday alongside MK Shevah Weiss, who released to the press his 290-page party-commissioned report seeking to explain why Labor lost the election.

According to Weiss, the chief flaw was that the Labor campaign was managed by "a nonfunctioning team, with too many stars, each already looking out for his own future and going after portfolios in what they were sure would be the next Labor government."

While the Weiss report absolved Peres of any blame, Weiss told reporters that if Peres had erred, it was in "being too nice. He counted on the campaign managers. His tendency to delegate authority and his optimism are praiseworthy traits in themselves, but they were detrimental in this instance."

"It was wrong to allow so many stars in the campaign headquarters. This is your mistake - you were too generous, not tough enough," Weiss said, turning to Peres.

Peres admitted that the campaign team was not a functional unit, but said he had appointed people to it with an eye to preventing internal bickering.

"Yours is hindsight wisdom," Peres retorted, "I had to maintain party unity."

Weiss stressed he was not blaming Peres.

"This time we had a candidate who was an active prime minister and defense minister and he had a great burden on his shoulders, which wasn't the case with Rabin in 1992. Peres couldn't be expected to manage the campaign himself just as Clinton doesn't man-

age his campaign," Weiss said.

"I did the best I could," Peres said. "After all, I did not ask Hamas to set off bombs or Hizbullah to shoot... If anyone charges that I didn't play my part appropriately, I can only say that the public will judge me..."

"I heard on one claim there is any crime, negligence or sin involved. I accuse no one and when I again face the public's judgement I will explain what needs to be explained," Peres said cryptically.

When asked if that means he will run once more, Peres replied with visible irritation, "I will be the one who decides. This is my right."

The report also charged that the campaign headquarters which Peres appointed "lacked any direction, clear hierarchy and authority. This created loopholes with no one taking responsibility." Campaign headquarters chairman MK Binyamin Ben-Eliezer "was in effect in charge of an orchestra of soloists. It was an orchestra without a conductor... He could hardly function when he was supposedly in charge of a team which included politicians of a higher rank than his own."

The various polls which were commissioned by the party did not always reach all members of the campaign headquarters, and any critical views were treated with suspicion because they contradicted the air of optimism around Peres, Weiss reported.

The campaign strategy formulated by MK Haim Ramon erred grossly, according to Weiss, when it decided "to ignore Likud candidate Netanyahu and treat him in an arrogant, belittling and contemptuous manner. It was a mistake to attempt to deliberately put down the opponent in so supercilious a fashion and to so greatly underestimate him."

Weiss also found that his party lost the election because of poor organization, with MK Moshe Shahal failing to bring to the polls the 30,000 voters which could have made all the difference.



Hundreds participate in the funeral procession for Capt. Shahak Sela, who was killed in Monday's helicopter crash. The funeral took place in Kiryat Shaul yesterday. (Israel Sun)

Dolphin's engines reportedly caused problems in past

BACKGROUND
ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

THE Dolphin helicopter, with its built-in tail rotor, is a product of the French Aerospatiale company. The IAF has used the Dolphin since 1985. Its purpose is to enhance the weapons systems on navy missile boats by expanding the visible horizon.

The Americans purchased 98 of the Dolphins. Because of US military procurement conditions, 50 percent of the Dolphin had to be made with American components. Therefore, its avionics and turbo engines were replaced with US systems. The Dolphins Israel bought were equipped with the US engines.

The turbo engines have reportedly caused the

Americans a number of problems and are said to have short lives and be difficult to maintain.

The Dolphin's three-man crew is made up of a pilot, navigator, and a naval officer, who conducts the communications with the ship. The Dolphin is precariously tied to a small platform of the navy's cruiser class ships, nicknamed "the smallest aircraft carrier in the world."

The cooperation between the air force and navy lets the ship be maintained at sea.

Designed in the mid-1970s, the Dolphin was received with so much success that the US Coast Guard has based its helicopter force on it.

Previous helicopter crashes

The worst IAF helicopter accidents over the past two decades:

•March 31, 1996 - Seven killed when a Yasur 2000 transport helicopter crashes in the Judean Desert while practicing clandestine troop delivery. The helicopter completely burns and IAF investigators never determine if it was a technical malfunction or human error. Two survive the crash.

•December 1994 - A CH-53 crashes into Palmahim beach trying to lift heavy cargo. Three crewmen die.

•January 12, 1994 - OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Nebemia Tamari and three other officers die when their helicopter crashes in fog near the command landing pad in northern Jerusalem.

•July 1, 1992 - Sgt.-Maj. Gil Rosenthal is killed when his helicopter crashes into the sea off Rosh Hanikra during a rescue drill.

•April 25, 1990 - Seven airmen are killed when two CH-53s collide near Ofra during a training exercise.

•December 30, 1988 - Pilot dies when his Yasur 2000 crashes during a border-marking mission north of Eilat.

•September 9, 1984 - Five soldiers die in a Bell 212 crash near Beit She'an.

•May 10, 1977 - A CH-53 slams into a hill during a nighttime training exercise near Jericho, killing all 54 paratroopers and air force personnel on board. (Arieh O'Sullivan)

WEATHER

Forecast Clear.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	C	F	W
Amsterdam	10	15	50	59	clear
Buenos Aires	15	20	59	68	clear
Calcutta	25	30	77	86	cloudy
Chicago	10	15	50	59	cloudy
London	10	15	50	59	cloudy
Los Angeles	15	20	59	68	clear
Manila	25	30	77	86	cloudy
Medan	25	30	77	86	clear
Montreal	10	15	50	59	cloudy
Moscow	10	15	50	59	cloudy
New York	10	15	50	59	cloudy
Paris	10	15	50	59	clear
Perth	15	20	59	68	clear
Rio de Janeiro	15	20	59	68	clear
Sydney	15	20	59	68	clear
Tokyo	10	15	50	59	cloudy
Washington	10	15	50	59	clear
Zurich	10	15	50	59	clear

Hefetz's term extended by at least one year

INTERNAL Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani has decided to extend Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz's tenure by at least one year, defusing reports of tension between the minister and police chief.

A ministry spokesman announced yesterday that on Monday Kahalani informed Hefetz, who was appointed nearly three years ago, of the decision to keep him on at least until January 1998.

Kahalani also told Hefetz of his plan to appoint a deputy inspector-general, a position that at present does not exist.

Kahalani and Hefetz were at odds last month over the appointment of a new Investigations Division head. At the time, ministry officials and senior police officers spoke of the possibility that Kahalani would choose not to extend Hefetz's original three year appointment, which was to end in March. However, Kahalani always rejected the reports of tensions between him and Hefetz, and his decision to extend the police chief's tenure ended speculation about this. (Bill Hutman)

Kahalani, Milo discuss tactics to tackle foreign worker problem

Minister proposes closing unlicensed health clubs and other institutions

INTERNAL Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani yesterday said things should be made difficult for foreign workers trying to establish health clubs and other institutions in Tel Aviv.

"If we have to make someone's life miserable to get them to close down the health club - we should do so," Kahalani said.

During a meeting with Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo and city merchants, Kahalani said that the government had decided to establish a special authority to deal with the foreign workers. He said the situation had become a national plague, with some 100,000 licensed foreign workers here, and more than 300,000 illegal ones.

Kahalani said the situation is also impacting on the Tel Aviv school system, where there were classes full of foreign workers' children.

Kahalani said that when it comes to any type of business operation which requires a license, "if they don't have one, we must make things hard for these people in the city, so they don't turn Tel Aviv into their home base, where they take over whole areas, and make it hard on local residents. And the municipality must see to it that they do not enjoy themselves here, so that they take their stuff and go home."

He added that plans are still being made to create a neighborhood police force in Tel Aviv, since he believes "the policeman is an inseparable part of the neighborhood." (Itim)

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